

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LXIII.]

HONGKONG, MONDAY, 28th MAY, 1906.

No. 21

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Epitome.....	377
Leading Articles:—	
Sir Robert Hart	378
A Faithful Servant of Peace	378
Buying Land in China	379
The Steel Trust	379
A New Theory of the Universe	380
Chinese Appreciation of Politics	381
Woman's Suffrage	381
Hongkong Jottings	382
Supreme Court	382
The Tragedy at the Theatre	385
The I. M. C.	385
The Hongkong Magistracy	385
A Year's Crime at Hongkong	385
Hongkong Post Office	386
Fires at Hongkong	386
The Royal Sanitary Institute	386
Appointments	386
Growth of Chinanfu	386
Chinese View of Plague Measures	387
The Plague "Joas"	388
The "Y.R.C."	388
Too Many Admirals	388
Extraordinary Dumping Case	388
Macao	388
Canton	389
Amoy	389
Formosa	389
Departure of Austro-Hungarian Consul	390
The "Roon" Ashore	390
Japanese School Teachers in Conference	390
A Korean Postmaster	391
Alleged British Mistakes at Brunei	391
Maudlin Sentiment	391
Chinese "Howlers"	391
Shanghai French Concession	391
International Banking Corporation	391
The Late Sir George O'Brien	391
A Question of Customs Dues	392
Experiences in San Francisco	392
Correspondence	393
A Marriage Proposal	393
The Peking Police	393
Chinese Railway Enterprise	393
A Strange Tragedy in Kwangtung	393
Miscellaneous	393
Commercial	394
Shipping	396

BIRTHS.

On May 6th, at Paotingfu, the wife of DAVID LATIMORE, of a son.

On May 10th, at Shanghai, the wife of Mr. MARCO GOLDSTEIN, of a daughter.

On May 15th, at Shanghai, the wife of G. M. BOXES, of a daughter.

On May 16th, at Shanghai, the wife of Mr. SUTTER, of a son.

On May 17th, at Kashing, to the Rev. and Mrs. H. MAXEY SMITH, a son.

MARRIAGES.

On May 18th, at St. John's Cathedral, by the Rev. A. Stevens, M.A., WILLIAM BROWNLOW ASKE MOORE, of the Hongkong Civil Medical Service, fourth son of JOSEPH HENRY MOORE, M.I.C.E., Dublin, to AGNES MARY, elder daughter of the late HAMILTON BANKIN GRAHAM, of Fahan, County Donegal, Ireland.

On May 8th, at Nippon, the Rev. WALTER ROBBINS (C.S.S.), of Taichow, to Miss MARIE LOUISE WOODRUFF.

On May 18th, at Shanghai, JAMES RANDALE ANDING to MARY ANGSTA HAMMIS.

DEATHS.

On May 6th, at Shanghai, JOSE FRANCISCO DE ROZARIO, aged 52 years.

On May 14th, at Shanghai, of acute pneumonia, RICHARD LUDLEY CRABBE-WARD, of Jardine, Matheson & Co., aged 24 years.

On May 20th at Shanghai, JENNY ADLER, wife of E. ADLER, aged 27 years.

At the Government Civil Hospital, Hongkong, on May 21st, Mr. R. D. VANIA, broker, aged 55 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.

LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAIL.

The German Mail of April 24th arrived, per the ss. *Preussen*, on Thursday, the 24th instant; and the French Mail of April 27th arrived, per the ss. *Oce-nien*, on to-day the 28th instant.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

Mr. Oliver, Commissioner of Customs at Nanking, has been deputed by the Chinese Government to make the arrangements for a foreign settlement at Mukden.

Inspector Gauld has retired from the police after 18 years' service, being invalided home. At present he is in the Government Civil Hospital. He is succeeded in the charge of Wanchai Police Station by Inspector Gourlay.

Mr. W. J. Russell, foreman shipbuilder at Kowloon Docks was on the 19th May presented with a heavy silver tea service by Mr. Logan on behalf of his colleagues, on the occasion of his having to leave for home because of ill-health.

It appears that the Shanghai Municipal police have orders to prosecute Chinese gamblers at all times except race week, when it would seem too invidious. A dead set is being made at the Council by some reformers, who object to this temporary relaxation.

On May 11th some Chinese boatmen picked up the dead body of a foreigner in the river at Shanghai. The body was handed over to the River Police and by them taken to the Mortuary, where it was ascertained to be that of Leading Stoker Phillips, of H.M.S. *Hart*, who was reported drowned the previous week.

Mr. W. B. Byers, one of the founders of the Shanghai Marine Engineers' Institute (or Black Squad Club) and for many years secretary and manager, is going home. The members presented him with an illuminated address and a cheque. He really worked wonders for this popular and useful institute during thirteen years of office, and the testimonial was quite spontaneous.

An excellent idea of the *Kölnische Zeitung* is that foreign ships of war on the China station should be neutralised, so that if war were to break out, say, between France and Germany there should be no necessity for the crews to leave their police duty in order to kill each other. No objections should be forthcoming from the Far East, at any rate.

Prior to the departure of Sir Ernest Satow from Peking, Tang Shao-yi, Vice-President of the Waiwupu, agreed with him upon the retrocession of Weihaiwei to China. One of the conditions was that China should refund to Great Britain all the expenses the latter had incurred in fortifying Weihaiwei and Liu-ungtsao, and another that China should not lease Weihaiwei to any other Power without the consent of Great Britain. This is a native report.

Under the title of "The fatal decline" *L'Avenir du Tonkin* comments on the decrease of receipts as indicated in the budget general for Indo-China for the month of March. The receipts have declined by 332,824 piastres when compared with the corresponding month of last year, while the three months January, February and March show a deficit of 1,795,970 piastres.

A pleasant function took place at Belilios Public School, when Mrs. C. J. Bateman, the head-mistress, was made the recipient of a handsome present by past and present scholars of the school, as a memento of their esteem. Mr. R. E. Belilios, on behalf of the scholars, made the presentation, after which refreshments were served, and her many friends bade the head-mistress farewell.

Mysterious placards have appeared all over Peking bearing four characters which cannot be read into any clear meaning, but contain some vague allusions to "West," "Soldiers," "Swords," "Water," and similar words in an apparently meaningless jumble. The *Peking and Tientsin Times* says, "Those of our readers who were here six years ago will recognise the old tactics."

Even in Hongkong the man who rummages the second-hand bookstalls may sometimes come across a find. For instance, a copy of the late John Hay's book about Spain, with the following inscription on the flyleaf in his own handwriting, cannot be considered dear at twenty-five cents. "To His Excellency Chang Tsu Hsien, &c., &c., with the regards of John Hay. Washington, March 31, 1887."

A Tientsin dispatch reports that a large body of mounted bandits suddenly made their appearance recently at a colliery in Heinoilin in the district of Chaoyang, just on side the Great Wall, and coolly began to take possession of the place after defeating the guard of Chinese troops stationed at the mine for its protection and the protection of the foreign employees there. Reinforcements are being sent by the Governor of Jehu Territory, in whose jurisdiction the mine is. No foreigners are reported to be hurt as yet.

The Shanghai police raided some gamblers (Spanish subjects) outside the Settlement. The Spanish Consul, with some wit, incorporated the following in his judgment:—"The court upon hearing the evidence and the defence of the accused finds them guilty of the charge, and taking into consideration that some forms of gambling which are prohibited according to Spanish law are publicly allowed in the Settlements during race week, and taking a lenient view of the case as a first offence, fines them jointly and severally to the sum \$100."

A Canton dispatch to a native paper at Shanghai states that Vic-roy Shun has signed the rough draft of an agreement with Mr. J. O. P. Bland, representing a British syndicate, for the construction of the above-named railway. The syndicate is to lead to China funds for the entire construction of the line, and loan and interest thereon to be guaranteed by the liks on salt in Kwang-tung province, and so long as the loan has not been repaid the working and control of the line are to be in the hands of the syndicate. The details of the draft agreement have been sent to Peking.

SIR ROBERT HART.

(Daily Press, 19th May.)

If anything could persuade us that we erred in thinking the Chinese Government had not been trying to oust their good friend and servant, Sir ROBERT HART, it would be their own recent denial. His talked of retirement and the recent change may be, as we said, a coincidence; but it is quite true that for the last ten years his influence has been decaying, and he has lost ground not only with the Chinese government, but with foreign Powers. Last year in commenting on the reactionary spirit displayed by the INSPECTOR-GENERAL we pointed out the inevitable results. If this, thought the Chinese Government, he all he can do, we can do it at least as well ourselves. One great reform, it is due to the honour of the great INSPECTOR-GENERAL to mention, was, however, the work of his latter years of office, and that is, of course, the conception and carrying out of an Imperial Post Office. An undertaking more contrary to the usual dialysing methods of Chinese procedure it is impossible to conceive; few supposed at the beginning that it was more than a fad, and it accordingly met with but faint support from any, Chinese or outsiders. A few mistakes here and there were undoubtedly committed, but on the whole the institution was found little by little to meet a want, and this plainly appears from the constantly increasing amount of business it transacts from month to month. It is, of course, true that the institution of the new department has not at all increased Sir ROBERT HART's popularity at Peking. It has given the inert and gelatinous mass of the Government something more to think about, and afforded Young China one more implement to make itself fussy over. That Young China of itself could never have conceived the idea never enters its brain, no more than that having conceived the idea it could never have carried it to the birth: it is sufficient that the new institution is now becoming so important that it should already arouse the jealousies of all, young and old. The Imperial Post Office comes in unpleasant contact with the one point whereon both old and young China are in perfect accord, and that is the, to both, unnecessary and objectionable habit of keeping records and accounting for receipts and expenditures. This is as yet, however would-be reformers would vapourise, as far as ever from the mind of the governing classes. It is not only in the old established departments of the government that the new doctrines make no progress, but even in such modern institutions as steamer associations, railways and telegraphs, we find the principle well-established that they are for the private pelf of the managers for the time being, subject to the time-honoured practice of Peking, of course, to pounce at some moment, probably when most unexpected, on the overbloated occupant. This of course equally was the great and honoured objection all through to the vesting of the important post of Chief of the Customs in the person of a foreigner. The very jealousies of the Foreign Powers forced them to unanimity on this one point, however each (and experience showed that there were Powers quite ready to acquiesce in private arrangements) was willing for itself to make backdoor arrangements for the payment of modified duties. Each was likewise equally unwilling that its neighbour should have the means of doing the same thing, and as China was at the time practically in the hands of the Taiping rebels, and the Government had only the open ports and the Foreign

Customs duties to depend on, it felt very grateful when the offer was made to put these latter in commission, and pay over to Peking the proceeds. It was to this system that the Inspectorate-General succeeded. The first Inspector-General, Mr. LAY, held the office for but a short period, when he had to leave owing to the opposition of the great provincials to the Osborne Flotilla with which he was intimately connected, so that practically Sir ROBERT HART has controlled the office since its commencement. The policy of the office, in which it was backed up by all the force of the British Foreign Office, at the time paramount in the capital, was ever to stiffen Peking at the expense of the provinces. As long as there was a real divergence between the two, especially when aided by all the force of the British Government, this was sound policy for the INSPECTOR-GENERAL; and to the two working together is undoubtedly due the fact that of late much profitable revenue formerly accruing to the provincials has been diverted to Peking. Now had Peking's hands been clean this could not have been otherwise than an advantage, but the fact has been that in the competition of uncleanness Peking has come out rather the worse of the two. It is difficult for an outsider to judge the various moves, and the constantly veering importance of one or other side in this sempiternal contest, but it is certain that in one way or another a continually increasing share of the revenue of China is now diverted to the capital. Open ports are now the fashion of the day, as they were its bugbear in the past, but the open port implies the placing of the port under the Maritime Customs and the Inspectorate-General, and a consequent increase of the jealousy already existing. There is a considerable amount of gratitude at Peking, but it is confined to that peculiar quality that waits on benefits to come, and as it is unlikely that a foreign Inspector-General will ever again have it in his power to confer a benefit such as did Sir ROBERT HART in the reactionary Mackay Treaty, it were wise under the conditions to listen to the cry of the provincials. In his younger days the late INSPECTOR-GENERAL heeded little these strivings of an ever suspicious administration; but the old star rider does not find it so easy a thing nowadays to stick to the saddle when new and untrained steeds are brought into the arena. One fault, even his best friends were willing to allow, was common to Sir ROBERT HART and other great minds, and that was an undue jealousy of his subordinates, and this it was that prevented him training up many of his ablest lieutenants to follow him in the post. In fact it was for this, it is well known, that for years the ablest always threw up their offices in disgust. It was one of the results of this mistake that at last when a more active mind than his was required to take up the reins no-one equal to the occasion was found; and himself become more reactionary than the Chinese themselves, he took the occasion to fill every vacant office with men of this stamp. Whatever opinion we may hold as to the capacity of the Chinese mind, it is at least certain that as a people they do not like the man of no opinions of his own; and it was the absence of independent feeling of late years on the part of the INSPECTOR-GENERAL that cost him their respect.

Tokyo newspapers announce that Switzerland has decided to open a Legation in Tokyo, and that Dr. Paul Rittler, now Consul-General for Switzerland in Yokohama, is to be the first Minister.

"A FAITHFUL SERVANT OF PEACE."

(Daily Press, 21st May.)

Those who have acquired an opinion of the KAISER—an opinion which can scarcely be said to be "formed"—from the less responsible British newspapers and the productions of the rarely charitable caricaturists, will be startled by the telegraphic information published to-day, in which we are told that the COLONIAL UNDER-SECRETARY has hailed His Imperial Majesty WILHELM II. as "a faithful servant of peace". It is amazing how powerful is the influence of caricature; and equally astonishing how little we realise on what flimsy bases many of our hardest impressions rest. To pause and inquire on what grounds the GERMAN EMPEROR should be regarded by so many as a pugnacious "War Lord", whose distinguishing feature is a "mailed fist", might give trouble to some people to furnish a more satisfactory answer than the one at which we have hinted. It is rather a pity that it was not a politician for whom the public entertains greater respect, who should have taken the present opportunity to try to awaken the world to a sense of error and injustice. Still, it so happens that Mr. WINSTON CHURCHILL is not alone in holding a high opinion of the German monarch. In the *Atlantic Monthly*, Mr. A. MAURICE LOW, remarking that "it is the penalty genius pays to mediocrity to be misunderstood", attempts with considerable ability and effect to dissipate misconceptions. Perhaps *Punch* never made a more popular hit than with its famous cartoon, "Dropping the Pilot". Many of its successes have doubtless been due to its knack of hitting upon the seeming obvious; and in that cartoon, commemorating the dismissal of BISMARCK, it perpetuated an impression of egoism and masterfulness as the motives of the EMPEROR's action. The *Atlantic Monthly* article takes a less flippant view, and says "the EMPEROR was sagacious enough to know that if BISMARCK remained in power, he would again so manipulate affairs as to force Germany into war, precisely as he had made the first WILLIAM take the field against France". Then it goes on to make a statement that may well have inspired Mr. CHURCHILL's later utterance. "The EMPEROR, in spite of all that has been said to the contrary, is essentially a man of peace, and while he is not afraid to fight, he knows the cost of war, and that the nation victorious pays a price almost as heavy as the nation defeated". No one realises more than the KAISER that the last thirty-five years have witnessed great changes in the German *Zeitgeist*. A writer in *La Revue* said a short time ago that the German desire for conquest is now a commercial one, and therefore entirely legitimate. The feudal world, which prior to 1870 dominated the land, has since been crushed by the young industrial bourgeoisie. The *La Revue* writer mentioned this to explain how democracy has been growing in Germany; we mention it to show that there is good reason for the KAISER's love of peace. Trade may follow the flag, but it follows at some distance behind. The press is an indispensable safeguard against grievances; but it has become painfully conspicuous as a manufacturer thereof. A good example is furnished by the *Contemporary Review*, which seems glad to stand sponsor for anything that Dr. E. J. DILLON cares to say. Dr. DILLON is a journalist who has never loved Germany; but like the rest of his kidney who seem to take delight in foment-

ing unnecessary Anglo-German bickerings he is far from infallible. He has recently been guilty of a "howler" which must have amused those who watch the progress of events in China. In the following extract, he seems to present Germany to us as an aggressive power withdrawing from China with chagrin at its own failure:—

"Thus it was lately announced that the Germans were withdrawing their garrisons from China, at the very moment that they were completing their designs upon Morocco. That consummation marks the end of the chapter which began with the occupation of Kiaochow and is not destined to be continued. The task was beyond her power, and having failed, there was nothing for it but to abandon interests in the Far East which could only be defended by German arms or by the force of an alliance under German hegemony. *Es war ein Traum.* And now the troops are being withdrawn, the dream is dispelled and a new course has to be taken."

That is more than a dream: it is a nightmare of stupidity. He does not understand that the German proposal to withdraw troops from China was a movement too essentially peace-loving even for some Englishmen out here, who regarded it as a distinctly premature striving after peace and harmony. The alleged abandonment of interests is not borne out by the continued progress of Kiaochow, under a policy of commercial conquest at which we have no right to grumble. When such misunderstandings are possible, the rest are easily understood. It is to be hoped that as much attention will be paid to writers like the one previously quoted, who in the *Atlantic Monthly* reminds us that the Kaiser is Queen Victoria's grandson, and that he has "inherited the dominant mental characteristics" which made that only one of the great figures of history. Mr. Low says:

"When the history of this period of the German Empire is written, it may be discovered that William the Second was a man who spoke for the future to hear. Then it may be understood that his influence was for peace and not for war; that he spoke with a purpose; that he heard the voice of humanity; that he was one of the positive forces of his time. The Hohenzollerns have given to history a great elector and a great king, and William the First has been called a great emperor. History may yet find that greater than the greatest of his race is the reigning sovereign; because while the claims of his ancestors are written in war, his title to greatness is the dower of peace."

BUYING LAND IN CHINA.

(Daily Press, 22nd May)

We quoted on April 25th from a northern contemporary a report that Baron Mumm, the German Minister at Peking, had protested against the action of the Chinese authorities in forbidding Chinese landowners to sell to foreigners any land outside the boundaries of the Shanghai settlement. Some of the papers, obviously in error, cite the third article of the Chefoo Convention as Baron Mumm's ground of action. We remarked at the time that "this is one of the things we should think China justified in doing," having chiefly in view at the time the inconvenience that has been caused to the foreign admittants of the Shanghai settlement. We notice that our Foochow contemporary, the *Keloo*, has gone more fully into the matter; with the result that on May 12th it publishes a leader which we take to confirm our briefer pronouncement. At the same time it points out once more the exceedingly vague nature of the understanding with China as to all such matters. Apparently the framers of conventions and treaties have regarded them as merely ornamental scalp-markings; or they may have thought that as China has

always been in the habit of ignoring them when it suited her purpose, they need not be drawn up with too scrupulous care. Seriously, there is no doubt, in spite of these numerous parchments, of the generally anomalous position of China and the Powers; and examination shows that with regard to the particular matter now raised, the treaties are particularly at fault. As the *Foochow Echo* says: "This want of a clear delimitation of port areas is most unsatisfactory, and can only be remedied by fresh agreement between China and the foreign Powers, clearly defining what the port limits are. Seawards, these are sufficiently defined, but landwards, they are not defined at all. No one with any knowledge of the recent history of official intercourse with the Chinese will be prepared to say that such an agreement would ensure the due observance of foreigners' rights in respect of residence or leasing land; but it would in any case involve a clear statement of what exactly those rights were and afford a sound basis of argument to adduce when they were infringed." Clause 2 of Section III. of the Chefoo Convention was subsequently reserved for further consideration, with the result that while the boundaries of the unique settlement of Shanghai are defined, there are many open ports and trade settlements where the foreign area and rights are left quite indefinite. Foochow itself appears to be a notable example of uncertainty. The Chinese, contrary to their usual prejudice, as evinced at Canton and more recently at Changsha, allow residence in the native city; but what foreigners call Foochow is a very much scattered collection of residences and hongas. Nantai, Kuliang, and we suppose even Pagoda would come into consideration if any dispute as to foreign rights should arise. There is no legal concession; but there has been a tacit concession that the foreigner might settle almost wherever in the vicinity fancy pleased him. "Are all these places", our contemporary asks, "inside the limits of the treaty port?" There is no satisfactory answer, and Foochow settlers may be congratulated on the fact that they have none of the embarrassments of the Shanghai Municipal Council, where there are properly defined limits. As to the right or wrong of the Chinese action at Shanghai, it was probably the motives which inspired it that provoked Baron Mumm's futile protest. We do not suppose that his nationals at Shanghai are particularly anxious to encourage straggling settlers outside the boundaries; at any rate, if they are, we cannot appreciate their reasons. The *Foochow Echo* has very ingeniously juxtaposed two views of Article XII. of the Tientsin Treaty, *a propos* extra-settlement rights. The words "or at other places" may bear the construction that foreigners have a right to acquire land anywhere in China; but we do not favour that construction. That Article of the British Treaty has for subject matter the rates of purchase, not the rights; and its object, its only object, seems to have been to secure "just dealing in land transactions where such transactions could take place". This seems clear enough when it is read in conjunction with the Article immediately preceding, which names the localities where "the right of residence, buying or renting houses, of leasing land therein", &c., &c., was determined. If, as we think, the Chinese are not compelled to sell to foreigners land outside treaty port limits, the error of Baron Mumm's implied claim is apparent since we are not aware that there is any dispute as to the position of those limits at Shanghai. On the whole, as there has been

nothing more said from Peking, we incline to the belief that the protest of the German Minister must have been misreported.

THE STEEL TRUST.

(Daily Press, 23rd May).

How injuriously a gigantic association may affect a nation, when uncontrolled by countervailing laws, and assisted by the financial help of a powerful Government, such as that of the United States, may be seen from a glance at the recent report of the United States Steel Corporation. Most successful of all the "trusts" which have been started on the American continent, the Steel Corporation has succeeded in getting into its hands, either directly or through the medium of subsidiary companies, the entire control of the iron production of the United States; and permits no private interference with its prerogative—and this control extends not only to the production of the raw material but to its manufacture into the finished product; so that the selling price of iron and steel in the United States is as inflexibly fixed by the Corporation as are the laws of the land through the operation of Government and legislature. It is therefore by no means difficult to understand why a strong ruler like THEODORE ROOSEVELT should already have begun to see in these uncontrolled associations the elements of future danger to the state; and to have been actively urging the necessity of subordinating them to the laws of the land, which to a considerable extent they already set at naught, or materially influence to their own pecuniary advantage.

It is not, however, in their relations to the United States that the doings of the Steel Trust so much interest the British Empire, as in their effect on British trade in general, and as an indication of what the financial policy of a powerful state may do to modify the commerce of the world. When the United States declared for protection pure and undiluted, and the celebrated "McKinley Tariff" became the law of the land, "trusts" of the present character were only in embryo, and their formation formed no portion of the programme of the protectionists. In the close and unwholesome atmosphere encouraged by the new tariff they, however, sprung naturally from the soil. The intention of the tariff was avowedly to close the markets of the United States to the manufactured products of the rest of the world, and this, except in the case of luxuries, they undoubtedly did. But the same tariff which closed the United States markets to the manufactures of Europe, it was soon seen, would also close the markets of Europe to American manufactured goods owing to their necessarily enhanced cost of production. It was beyond the abilities of individual manufacturers to overcome the difficulty; and the situation naturally suggested the utility of combination. The home market was secure: so long as the Tariff lasted no foreign competition was to be feared; and it would be a comparatively easy thing to persuade the home manufacturers that in combination as opposed to competition lay the road to unlimited profits. The Tariff was persistently protective as regarded the home manufacturer, but it omitted the equally important element of protecting the home consumer, who found that he had now to carry the latter on his shoulder. It is true that combinations of the sort carry within themselves the seeds of dissolution, and most of them collapsed; but a few, piloted by more resolute men, or mor-

favoured by external conditions, contrived to survive the difficulties of infancy, and of these the most remarkable was the Steel Trust. The iron industry of the United States was to a not inconsiderable extent favoured by nature; while the easily accessible deposits of Europe had long been exhausted, those in the States lay on the surface, and enormous deposits of coal lay even more conveniently at hand than in the older countries. The increase of population and the opening up of the country required an enormous production, but great as that was, the amount of ore actually in sight was more than sufficient to meet all demands for years, or even centuries to come. The problem arose to the ambitious manipulators of the Trust; could they not compete for the market of the world? The report for 1905, as summarised in *Engineering*, throws some light on the result.

The record for the year was unique. The output of the furnaces (pig iron, &c.) was upwards of ten million tons, as compared with a little over seven and a quarter the previous year, and the steel ingot production was close on twelve million tons, as compared with eight and a half the previous year. "The production", adds the summary, "in practically all departments exceeded very materially all previous records: the remark applies to the iron ore, the coal and the coke departments, as well as to the traffic handled by the transportation lines". The amount of profit earned on this gigantic outturn was \$120,000,000 (twenty-four millions sterling), or equal to the revenues of any but the eight principle nations of the world. Of necessity for its existence the Steel Trust has all along been a militant organisation, and its enormous revenue, formidable even amongst independent states, has enabled it to take the field against all private organisations however well equipped.

The management make no concealment with regard to this, and looking at it from their point of view their reasoning is well founded. "It is", says the summary, "the policy of manufacturers to keep the furnaces, mills, and transportation companies in operation to their full capacity whenever practicable. Obviously this is wise. It results in lower cost of production, and therefore influences lower prices generally to the domestic purchaser; and it secures continuous employment to the wage earner. For these reasons it is sometimes deemed proper and desirable to sell for export at prices lower than domestic prices: what would otherwise be surplus products. If a contrary policy should be adopted, the general cost of production would be increased, the employees would at times be idle, and balance of trade between foreign countries and this country would be changed to the prejudice of the latter." Now, of course, looking at the affair as a mere matter of business this is all right, and as such we have no cause to call the Trust hard names, but as concerns ourselves and our profits and industries we have an equal right to take care of ourselves. More than this; from an international and perfectly friendly point of view it becomes our duty to see that the interests of our own nationals are not prejudiced by what cannot be considered as equal competition. When we come to look closer into the financial aspect of the question, it will become evident that this unfair competition, which enables goods of American make to be dumped in the United Kingdom at rates actually in cases below cost price, and always at lower rates than the same identical goods are supplied to the people of America themselves, is brought about by the direct support given to the Trust by the high duties

charged on British goods on their entrance into the States. This is a question, it will be seen, quite independent of the relative merits of Free Trade and Protection. Of the benefits of free trade there can be no doubt; but free trade à la mode can be converted into the worst form of protection, so bad as to actually bar the manufacture of goods in England. If it should be in fair trade impossible that we should be able to compete with our neighbours in any commodity, then reason would indicate that its manufacture should pass into abler hands; but such is not the present case. The dearness comparatively of British goods in their own market in comparison with American goods of the same class is solely due to a protective tariff making it possible to overcharge consumers in the United States; and this enables for quite different ends the manufacture of surplus products, which can thus at reduced rates, frequently under the actual cost of production, be shipped to British ports. The occurrence as a rule of this method of forcing a market has generally been denied by our modern Cobdenists; but the untive acknowledgement of the Steel Trust shows that it has become a part of its regular business. Experience teaches us that when once an industry has been compelled to leave a country, it requires little short of a miracle to re-introduce it. Yet this is the condition in which we find many of our once leading industries.

A NEW THEORY OF THE UNIVERSE.

(Daily Press, 24th May.)

To suggest that the Newtonian theory of the universe is not well founded is an introduction startling enough for any book; and coming as it does between the covers of a little book published at Tokyo, of all places, its apparent presumption may tempt many people to treat it with undeserved contempt. Yet none who read the Rev. JOSEPH COSAND's "New Theory of the Universe", just published, will deny that he has synthesized a very fascinating hypothesis. Experts may be expected to tear his invention to bits soon enough; we will try in the short space at our disposal to give an outline of what this decidedly original theory is.

The author objects right away to the first law of motion, that a body set in motion will continue to move for ever in a straight line, stating that "if the atmosphere surrounding the earth is an obstruction to bodies moving through it, eventually overcoming their momentum and causing them to fall to the earth, one cannot see why the matter known as æther, a substance throughout interplanetary and interstellar space, does not in some degree hinder the planets in their sidereal rotations and cause them to lose their centrifugal force". Regarding this stoppage as inevitable under the law cited, he advances the proposition that "a body can acquire motion (velocity) only by means of atomic oscillation through energy transmitted to the atoms by applied force; and a body in motion will come to rest as soon as its atoms cease their vibrations". It is premised that æther, like everything else, has energy imparted to and through it atom by atom, the impulse ceasing at the point where the molecules come to rest; and that if so, the term centrifugal force as applied to planetary motions is a misnomer. Then he says that there is one motion of the planets which astronomers seem to have left out of their calculations when fitting solar phenomena with laws—that is, their progress in a line parallel with the sun's path through space.

This and all other phenomena, he claims, are explained by the new theory.

Coming to the energy, it is premised that heat is the only energy-producing force, in matter, of which we have any knowledge. Heat and light cannot be transmitted save by some atomic medium, capable of compression and expansion. Here the universal æther premiss comes in. We are asked to picture the sun and all its satellites at rest, cold and dark, in the ætherial ocean. The sun is fired up. (Being a parson, the author naturally promises to lead us to the First Cause in a subsequent volume.) The atmosphere round the sun begins to expand; the natural attack of cold æther upon hot æther breeds solar cyclones of a terrible magnitude. By and by the ponderous orb itself catches the momentum from its ætherial envelope, and begins to turn on its axis. One layer of æther acting upon another, the envelope grows bigger and bigger, and becomes a ball of ætherial matter millions and millions of miles in diameter, revolving upon its axis. Being so gaseous, and the power and solidity being central, the remoter envelope, so to speak, has a somewhat slower velocity than the whirling nucleus. The whole sphere, nucleus and envelopes, flattens at the poles; and the denser gases naturally make their escape at these points of less resistance, where the envelope is presumably thinner. A funnel-shaped axis is produced, round which the moving and harder pressed atmosphere travels. There is a steady flow of cold æther from the circumference towards the centre, which circles until sucked in at the furnace mouth. Here we have a huge ætherial whirlpool, in which the planets float. Neptune, on the outside, floats round at a slower pace than does the Earth, whose orbit is nearer the solar vortex. This system of concentric currents explains the axial rotations of the floating planets. Now why are these not drawn into the vortex? Because, of course, the central æther of this huge whirlpool is denser than the circumferential, and there is a regular gradation of density in the intermediate matter. This density, it is carefully explained, is produced, not by "gravitation", but by the pressure and momentum of the centralward movement. So each planet floats no nearer than the orbit where the ætherial density corresponds to its own; "just as bodies thrown into the sea float in the sea-strata in positions corresponding with their densities". So far as astronomers have ascertained, the densities of the various heavenly bodies, relative to their distances from the sun, bear this out. The eccentricity of the earth is explained by its struggles to remain in its current of appropriate density; its own atmosphere growing denser as it is drawn in, and less dense as it floats out, in sympathy with the section of solar atmosphere in which it finds itself. The density of the earth nucleus does not change perceptibly. Being in the solar envelope, all the planets naturally follow the sun in its advance towards the constellation Hercules. It must not be supposed that the author jumps from point to point as we have done; we have omitted the dovetailed explanations and illustrations for the sake of brevity. For the same reason we must ignore his very interesting list of subsidiary considerations, at least for the present. One, that tides are pushed by the sun, and not pulled by the moon as we understand them to be, may be returned to later.

The General Commercial Guild of Changsha proposes that as soon as Tls. 1,000,000 have been subscribed, they will begin to build the section of the Canton-Hankow railway from Changsha to Siangtan, a distance of 90 li.

CHINESE APPRECIATION OF POLITICS.

(Daily Press, 25th May.)

It is an interesting speculation what effect the extraordinary debate which took place in the House of Commons with reference to Chinese labour and Lord MILNER must have had upon the Chinese officials in London and such other educated Chinese as may have had cognisance of the proceedings. The Chinese AMBASSADOR in London, it may be recollected, was some time before approached by some of the Liberal party and was pressed to give his views on the subject. Doubtless the idea was that he would be glad to have ground of complaint and would seize upon the opportunity of showing how hardly the Chinese Government was always dealt with by the outer barbarian. His EXCELLENCY, however, was not to be caught with such small chaff; and showed himself quite equal to the occasion, his answer being that as the subject appeared to be a party question, he could not express any opinion with regard to it, but it struck him as strange that though the Chinese in the Transvaal had their own representative in the Consul General for China there, no complaints of ill-treatment had been made. He may have seen occasion to congratulate himself upon giving so guarded a reply, when the debate took place and Mr. BYLES declared that Lord MILNER had deliberately broken our engagements with China in acquiescing in some Chinese being flogged for some offence which was not dealt with by the ordinary tribunals. No objection whatever had been made to this course by the Chinese Consul General in the Transvaal, who would look upon it as the simplest way of maintaining order and quite in accordance with the usual mode of dealing with offences by Chinese. If the AMBASSADOR had given utterance to the slightest protest, it is easy to see of what use would have been made of the fact, but in the absence of anything of the kind we had the extraordinary spectacle of a British member of Parliament making a point of international protest on the part of China, which the Chinese never for a moment thought of making themselves. A more ridiculous exhibition from a Chinese point of view could scarcely be conceived. If the Chinese are at times inexplicable to us, we must surely appear equally inexplicable to them, when party spirit is carried to lengths such as these. Unfortunately, however, the matter has a more serious aspect. In an ordinary way the Chinese are quite ready enough to seize upon matters of grievance, and now a distinct line of complaint, which they would never have thought of themselves, has been suggested to them in high quarters at home—as on this part of Mr. BYLES' motion the Government was with him, as they indicated in the amendment they proposed. The Chinese are by no means unlikely to learn the lesson which has been thus gratuitously taught them and probably they will better the instruction. If they find that a change in the Government may get their particular views sustained, they will certainly, should occasion serve, make use of the information, and we shall find that they will be able to turn party politics to as good account as the Dutch party in South Africa have done in the present instance, by discrediting Lord MILNER and forcing in responsible Government at a much earlier period than that at which it would otherwise have been granted. The Chinese will not be slow to learn a lesson of this character, especially when they are deliberately invited to do so. The notion of its

being an international question between Great Britain and China that some coolies had had a small punishment in the form of corporal punishment inflicted upon them in a way which happened to be technically illegal, but which, after all, was not any real disregard either of justice or of the coolies' reasonable freedom, must make it clear to people less astute than Chinese officials usually are that there is always a chance of making a "top" question of anything that can be forced into catch words such as will take with the masses at an election or will in any other way strengthen the governing party. How serious a detraction this must be from the influence (little enough as it is, some will say) of the BRITISH MINISTER at Peking must be evident to all who know anything of Chinese official ways. Let it once be known that it is possible to go behind the back of the Minister at the Capital, and to obtain support from home, the influence of our Representative will be seriously impaired in any matter in which the Chinese are disposed to be obstinate; and questions which might be settled at Peking by a little firmness will be referred home, and the Secretary of State for Foreign affairs will be pressed to decide them not upon their merits but according as they may be of advantage for party purposes. This may be a matter of serious import in this country; but the same thing applies in other directions, so that it is not too much to say, as has been freely asserted in some of the home papers, that the effective result of the debates on the Chinese labour question will be to lower British influence in all directions. The position of any British Representative must become one hardly worth holding if he is liable at any moment to be the shuttlecock of party politics, and to have his actions made the subject not of judicial and well considered official notice, either favourable or otherwise, but of heated party controversy in Parliament.

That the Chinese are well able to grasp this bearing of the matter is evidenced by the diplomatic answer which their AMBASSADOR in London gave when an attempt was made to drag him into the controversy. It is clear that he perfectly understood the object with which he was approached and with a very quiet touch of satire let his questioners know this. In this particular matter there was no object to be gained by taking any other position, but the action of Chinese officials is likely to be very different if an occasion arise when it is to their advantage to work in the opposite direction. We may be quite sure if such circumstances occur, as is more than probable they will, the Chinese will not forget the lesson which has been taught them by Mr. BYLES and the UNDER COLONIAL SECRETARY in substantially supporting him.

WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE.

(Daily Press, 26th May.)

The startling statement recently made that "more than four hundred members of the new House of Commons are pledged to woman's suffrage" is far more significant of the progress of the agitation than are incidents like the flag-waving from the Grille, the besieging of the PREMIER'S residence, the arrest of disorderly suffragists, and the petitions and processions. There is no telling what reckless upsetting of the old order there may be, in case the gallant four hundred have the courage of their alleged conviction. A certain respect must be ungrudgingly paid to woman like the late SUSAN B. ANTHONY, and to some (not

all) of our women writers and workers; but taking ample cognisance of such heroic representatives of their sex, we must refuse to look complacently on the female parliamentarian. It is no mere prejudice, nor overweening satisfaction with the superiority of the male, that prompts distrust of the new order now threatened. Male politicians there are nowadays as hysterical and illogical as we might expect any woman to be; and with regard to special legislation, relating to marriage and divorce for instance, and such questions as the espousal of the deceased wife's sister, we could believe that women legislators might bungle less than the men have done. But the agitation is not for a specific reform; it is not a movement that stands alone. It is part of a too widespread heresy for which men themselves are largely to blame, and it is one more of the foolish capers that modern civilisation has been cutting in the face of Nature herself. That "men must work and women weep" is not a mere trope; it is a laying down of the law. The assumed equality of the sexes (if the women do not nowadays claim superiority) is not warranted by the data. The women workers, numerous and efficient though they be, are none the less frenks. Owing to the greater intensity of the struggle for existence in a community even over to cut-throat competition and artificial appetites, marriage as a career has been closed to many women. They have therefore entered into competition with men in what was formerly always purely the man's sphere—that of breadwinner—and male chivalry has been wearing thin under the strain, and womanly modesty has been usurped by a greater self-assertion. It is only from these women workers—with whose unnatural position we must sympathise—and perhaps from a few wives who are too well-off in a worldly sense to have legitimate occupations as a scope for their energy, that the outcry against woman's place in the social scheme has come and is coming. The normal woman, the old-fashioned *haus-frau und mutter*, is physically unfitted and temperamentally disinclined for the cares of the publicist. Even the modern product, her working sister, has not become physically adapted to her changed condition, as all employers of female labour know. There should never have been any quibbling or nibbling with the question at all. It seemed plausible to admit that women were peculiarly fitted to be teachers of the young, chiefly because of the hallowed tradition of the mother's knee; but as a matter of fact, there is no proof that children can absorb instruction better from a woman than a man. It has so happened that the male parent, being abroad hunting, fighting, or working, the primary training of the young idea devolved upon the mother. Her pupil acquired some sentiments, morals, and other more or less useful abstractions, to be gratefully remembered in later life, with the affection that accompanied them; but practical instruction had to be obtained elsewhere and later. The function of the mother of the race is so important that Nature seems to have specialised, and omitted any endowments really capable of sustained application otherwise. When closely studied, the most highly civilised woman is found to be still closer to nature than man, less artificial, less of a poser. If her emotions and passions be considered, if her attitude towards men, children, and especially towards other women, be observed it will be found that she is still in the age of barbarism. No disrespect is implied. She is elemental; unchanged because un-

changeable; and the gaunt, bespectacled, vehement politician is still Mother Eve, although robbed of her rightful place and perquisites. We are not greatly alarmed by the agitation, although it does not appeal to us. The times are out of joint in other ways beside, but we have faith that things will right themselves. Woman's suffrage in New Zealand seems to have made no difference, beyond temporarily pacifying the few who clamoured for it. The men who championed the cause must have been a little surprised at the lack of enthusiasm and gratitude on the part of the majority; but that is nothing new. Men are always being surprised by them because they so often try to treat them as logical creatures. The natural woman has no use for the syllogism; and she has no use for politics or a vote. A recent writer, dealing with the problem of women workers, remarks, "a war of the sexes is an eventuality which cannot be considered probable; and however great may be the antagonisms of the moment, they eventually disappear before the spirit of the species, reasserting its omnipotence." That means that no matter what experiments follow the apparent exigencies of the moment, the tendency is, where the woman is concerned, to keep returning to elementals.

HONGKONG JOTTINGS.

21st May.

The one great topic of conversation locally is the appointment of the Commission. Most people regarded it as inevitable, and all are agreed that it is desirable. If all is well in our local administration then the assurance to that effect from the Commissioners will be welcomed by those who have felt some uneasiness at the stories that have been in circulation, while if there be any abuses or corruption they should be exposed and the required steps taken to ensure that purity of administration which is associated with British rule. The personnel of the Commission is one that will inspire confidence. The unofficial members have an intimate acquaintance with the working of the Ordinances, more particularly the Public Health Ordinance of 1903, and will know in what channel to direct the investigations, while the forensic ability and fair-mindedness of the Chairman should secure for those under examination perfectly impartial treatment.

There can be no two opinions that His Excellency the Governor has considerably added to the good impressions formed regarding him by the action he has taken in this matter. The under-current of dissatisfaction, growing into a volume of open complaints, which has made itself heard for some little time, could not be ignored. All along there has been a suspicion, which perhaps amounted to more than a suspicion, that the working of certain departments was not free from irregularities, and this evidently having come to the knowledge of His Excellency he has shown his honesty of purpose and whole-hearted endeavour to keep the Government of the Colony above reproach by instituting an inquiry into the operation of the Sanitary and Building Regulations and whether bribery is or has been associated with these. Such a step, though not to be undertaken lightly, is indeed highly commendable.

While of course nothing should be said now to prejudice the inquiry about to be opened, it is palpable to the majority of residents that the very drastic nature of the Public Health Ordinance of 1903, which aimed at thorough reforms, has been responsible for a great deal of dissatisfaction among those affected by it. Certain of its provisions act very harshly on the natives and as a matter of fact occasionally worsen conditions which they were designed to improve, while it also opened the door for irregularities and abuses which may or may not have crept in. In the circumstances it is not too much to expect that one

result of this inquiry, following the frequently expressed feelings of disapproval will be some modification or amendment of that Ordinance.

Although the bathing season is not yet at its height, numerous launches are to be seen leaving the city each afternoon for the stretch of water which the occupants fancy for disporting themselves; but in a week or two this distinctive feature of Hongkong's social life will become as pronounced as usual. Great as the facilities are here for enjoying ourselves in the water, it has to be borne in mind that there is a fairly large section who do not or cannot avail themselves of these opportunities. Now, it has been suggested that some man of enterprise might find a profitable speculation in erecting and equipping public baths at a spot comparatively near the city to be convenient yet sufficiently distant to be an attractive bathing spot.

Of course it may be argued that the need for such an institution is not very great. Perhaps not, but there are undoubtedly many who would take advantage of such an opportunity to obtain a "cooler" during the day, while we know—it is a common business axiom—that the supply very often creates the demand. To the busy individual who cannot afford the hour or two which the ordinary bathing expedition occupies, such an institution would prove a great boon. Others would be attracted to it in addition to their nightly swim; and not a few would be induced by reason of the safety and accommodation which it afforded to spend more time in the water than usual. Were the V.R.C. quarters on the Hongkong side, there would not be the same amount of reason for putting forward these arguments, but at present there is little doubt that the scheme is not impracticable.

For instance, if the permission of the Government were obtained to make suitable erections on the shore either east or west beyond the limits of the city—which could be reached in about fifteen minutes or less by tram—it would not entail a great outlay to put up a matched with requisite accommodation. It might be conducted on the lines of public swimming places at home, towels, etc., provided, refreshments supplied, while for use in the water there might be at hand a number of furnishings which we have seen employed for aquatic sport. Of course it would be advisable to have more than one class, with separate accommodation.

It has often occurred to me that a simple and profitable scheme could be found in deepening the water opposite the Metropole Inn, and making a covered gangway from the inn to the sea. There is already a dug tunnel from the hotel grounds under the tramway to the beach. There is no need to go into detail, however, which would be elaborated according to the ideas of the speculators interested, but I think that a scheme on the lines indicated is not altogether impossible.

There was an interesting paragraph in the annual report of the medical officer in charge of the hospitals for infectious diseases. It shows that medical science is still comparatively helpless in dealing with the plague. The officer confesses that no advance has up till now been made in the treatment of this disease, nothing having been discovered which will act as a preventive or a curative. It has been known that experiments were being conducted in the local hospitals with a certain serum, but the results were not such as to establish the value of the agent employed. The mortality is as heavy as ever, and medical men are still looking to the laboratory worker to discover the serum which will prove effective in combating the disease.

When I read the account of the policeman's death near the City Hall last week, it occurred to me, as I did relay it did to many others, that the present ambulance arrangements are not at all satisfactory. When an accident happens, it takes some little time for those at the Central Station to be informed of the fact and to dispatch the ambulance waggon. But this seems the most cruel feature, the coolies entrusted with its conveyance proceed only at a walking pace.

The need for haste in such emergencies is recognised in other parts of the Empire and it seems incredible that such an unconscionable delay should be tolerated at a time when every moment is precious and when the proper attention administered at the earliest opportunity may be the means of saving a life. Surely it is not too much to hope that those responsible shall in future see that the ambulance is taken to the scene of accident at more than a walking pace.

The "dramatic incidents" associated with the Sanitary Board did not end with the famous scene in which Mr. Hewett produced the tumblerful of "live water" in explanation of a complaint which he made on the subject of mosquito breeding. Last week it was Mr. Suelton Hooper's turn. He resented official interference in the matter of the market prices and declined to sit on the committee as a result. Then he rose from the table and walking to where the President sat, ceremoniously handed over his papers and documents, and with eyes flashing with indignation returned to his seat. It was a most effective scene, and must have impressed his colleagues that here was a man not to be trifled with.

BANYAN

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, May 18th.

IN ADMIRALTY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE) AND HON. CAPTAIN L. A. W. BARNES-LAWRENCE (NAUTICAL ASSESSOR).

ANOTHER COLLISION CASE.

Chan Pok-tai, owner of the junk "Lin Shing Lee," and the owners of her cargo, claimed damages from the s.s. "Hankow" for a collision which occurred between the vessels on November 15th.

Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. E. J. Grist (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist), appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., instructed by Mr. H. J. Gedde (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master), represented the defendants.

The plaintiffs' statement of claim set forth that at 9.20 p.m. on November 15th the two-masted junk "Lin Shing Lee" whilst on a voyage from Hongkong to Macao, laden with a general cargo, and manned with a crew of six men, was off Pillar Point (Cheung Shakok). The wind at the time was about north-east and very light, and the weather was fine and clear with the moon shining brightly. The junk was heading about west, north-west, sailing free on the starboard tack, and her speed was about two miles per hour. Her regulation lights (white light at masthead, and white light at the stern) were exhibited and burning brightly, and a good lookout was kept on board. At that time those on board the junk observed the masthead light and green light of the "Hankow" at a distance of about three miles from the junk, and bearing about half a point on her starboard bow. The junk continued on her course. When the "Hankow" was nearing the junk, she suddenly exhibited her red light. The junk was kept on her course, and those on board burned mats and shouted loudly, but the "Hankow" came on rapidly and struck the port bow of the junk with the bluff of her bow, causing great damage. The plaintiffs alleged there was no proper lookout kept on the "Hankow"; that those on board the "Hankow" failed to take proper measures for avoiding a collision with the junk; that the helm of the "Hankow" was ported at an improper time; that the "Hankow" was guilty of breaches of Articles 20, 22, 23 and 20 of the regulations for preventing collisions at sea. The plaintiffs claimed a declaration that they were entitled to the damages proceeded for; the condemnation of the defendants and their bail in such damage and costs; to have an account taken of such damage with the assistance of merchants and such other relief as the Court may grant.

In reply the defendants stated—At about 9.15 p.m. on November 15th, the "Hankow", whilst on her usual voyage from Canton to Hongkong was near Castle Peak, and was

proceeding on a course about south-east by east at a speed of about ten knots per hour. Her regulation lights were burning brightly, and a good lookout was being maintained. The night was fine and clear but cloudy, and a fresh breeze was blowing from about north-east, the tide being near the end of the flood. Under these circumstances, those on board the "Hankow" observed a junk, with no lights, nearly a mile away, and bearing about half a point on the "Hankow's" starboard bow. As soon as those on the "Hankow" could make out the junk's course, which was crossing over to the "Hankow" from starboard to port, the "Hankow's" helm being ported so that the junk (if she had kept her course) would have passed the "Hankow" amply clear, port to port. When the vessels were about to pass, the junk suddenly changed her course to port, and apparently attempted to cross the "Hankow's" bows from port to starboard. The "Hankow's" engines were immediately reversed full speed, and her helm was brought hard to port, but there was no time for these measures to produce much effect before the junk coming on rapidly struck with her port bow the "Hankow's" port side about seventy feet from her stem, inflicting damage on the "Hankow". No lights were visible on the junk until after the collision, when a light appeared at her stern. The defendants alleged that the junk neglected to maintain a proper lookout; that she neglected to keep her course as required by Article 21 of the regulations for preventing collisions at sea; that the junk was navigated in a manner which was reckless and unseamanlike and contrary to Article 29 of the said regulations; that the junk neglected to carry or exhibit the lights required under the Merchant Shipping Amendment Ordinance 1905, or any light whatever. The collision was caused solely by the fault of the junk and there was no negligence or improper navigation on the part of the "Hankow".

The defendants counterclaimed judgment for damage caused to the "Hankow" by the collision and costs; to have an account taken of the said damage with the assistance of merchants; and such other relief as the Court may think fit.

Mr. Slade said the preliminary act and petition and answer stated clearly the stories of the two sides. The "Hankow's" was the usual story always set up, namely, no lights. That substantially was their defence, because on all other points it was clear from their statements that they saw the junk as far off as they could have seen her if she had had her regulation lights, which were only supposed to be visible a mile distant. Yet they saw her a mile off and the junk was only a small vessel of some 70 feet long or thereabouts, and she was loaded with a heavy general cargo, including a large number of tins of kerosene, and was on a voyage from Hongkong to Canton. She finished loading kerosene about 5 p.m., and sailed from Stonecutter's on her voyage to Macao. The course she was taking would be explained by the master; it was the best she could take in the state of the tide. She went through the Capsuimun Pass with flood tide and kept close to the shore, intending after she had gone some way up to turn and go across the estuary of the Canton river so that if the tide turned she should not be set down. When the junk was off Pillar Point the lights of the "Hankow" were seen. The junk kept on her course and the "Hankow" kept on her course, and the two vessels were heading so that they would pass clear of one another, starboard to starboard. When, however, the "Hankow" was quite close to the junk she suddenly ported and went across the course of the junk. The junk kept on, and struck the "Hankow" at a very acute angle indeed somewhere about the bow. She slid down along the side of the "Hankow" until she was brought up by the paddle-boxes, and apparently the damage done to her was caused by the blades of the paddle of the "Hankow"; the revolving paddle cut a great hole out of the side of the junk. That was the story told by the junk and set up in the plaintiffs preliminary act before they had an opportunity of knowing the story of the "Hankow", and that story was borne out in nearly all material part by the story told by the "Hankow". The only difference was that the defendants said there was a fresh breeze, and not a light breeze, as the junk people maintained, and

in which contention they were corroborated by the record at the Hongkong Observatory. The junk was deeply laden and her speed was about two miles an hour, while the speed of the "Hankow" was stated by the defendants to have been ten knots. The next point of difference between the two vessels was that the junk altered her course at the last moment, therefore running into the "Hankow", and would have passed clear if it had not been for altering her course. Mr. Slade submitted that this was an extraordinarily improbable story. The junk was a small vessel of some 70 feet long, laden with a heavy cargo, and carrying a number of women and children—the master had his wife and children on board, and one child was drowned. It was inconceivable that a small vessel like the junk would, as alleged by the "Hankow", have turned and at such close quarters thrown herself into the course of a vessel at least four times her own length. Another difference between the stories of the vessels was that the junk had no lights except one at the stern which, according to the "Hankow's" preliminary act, was seen only after the collision. The evidence of the junk people would be that they carried the two lights required by the Merchant Shipping Ordinance. From the statement made on behalf of the "Hankow" in her preliminary act, it was perfectly clear that she saw the junk about a mile distant. Counsel would show that the story told by the junk was by far the more probable, and would ask his Lordship to believe that story.

Evidence was led, and the case adjourned.

Monday, May 21st.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

The Criminal Sessions, which were adjourned from the 18th inst., were opened, there being five cases set down for trial.

FORGED BANK NOTES.

A Japanese named Ken Iwakura was charged on two counts with attempting to utter forged bank notes and on one count with having forged notes in his possession. Through a Japanese interpreter prisoner pleaded not guilty to the first two charges but admitted the third.

The Attorney General, who prosecuted, said he was willing to accept that plea.

Prisoner, when asked for an explanation for having the forged notes in his possession, said he did not know the notes were forged until he was arrested.

The Puisne Judge—That is not good enough.

The Attorney General—No; it will be safer to enter a plea of not guilty.

The following jury were empanelled: Messrs. R. S. Judah, W. Taylor, T. C. Gray, W. E. West, H. J. O'Leffe, J. Mitchell, and E. Clayman.

The Attorney General, in opening the case for the prosecution, stated that the prisoner entered the shop of a Chinaman at 34, Queen's Road on April 11th and bought a watch, tendering in payment a ten dollar note. Five days later he proceeded to a shop a little down and commenced bargaining for a box. By an extraordinary coincidence this shop belonged also to the shopkeeper already referred to and by a more remarkable coincidence the shopkeeper was present and heard prisoner negotiating for the purchase of a box. In the interval the shopkeeper had ascertained that the banknote originally tendered by prisoner was forged and when another of the same was presented to his *foki*, he had prisoner arrested. At the Police Station prisoner was seen endeavouring to get rid of something and a ten dollar bill was found on the floor. When searched two more ten dollar notes were found in his possession.

Evidence having been given,

Prisoner made a statement that he received the notes from a Japanese visitor at his lodgings. He did not know that they were forged.

The jury found prisoner guilty.

The Attorney General pointed out that this offence had become very common in the Colony. The Judge—Has it? Well, I can give him life.

The Attorney General—It has become very common of late, especially with regard to the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank notes.

The Judge—The notes are all alike?

The Attorney General—Yes, they come from the same printing press probably in Japan.

Sentence of five years' penal servitude was passed for the first two offences and eighteen months' hard labour for the third, to run concurrently.

MANSLAUGHTER.

A carpenter named Chan King was arraigned for the manslaughter of Kwan Cheong, another carpenter, at 33, Queen's Road Central on 25th April. The Attorney General prosecuted and the same jury was sworn again.

Evidence was given to the effect that defendant went to the shop in question, and deceased told him that he should not sleep there as he did no work there, but defendant declared that he would. The men quarrelled and got to blows. After being separated defendant threw a piece of wood at deceased, who fell to the ground and defendant then ran away. Deceased took out a summons against defendant, but died four days later.

Defendant's statement was that he pleaded to be allowed to sleep in deceased's bed as he had done for some time, but deceased threw a piece of wood at him which hit him on the head. He threw it back and struck deceased.

The jury, by six to one, found prisoner guilty, and sentence of one year's penal servitude was passed.

"THE OLD STORY OF THE RUPTURED SPLEEN."

Fung Kai-sing and Cheung Shui, seamen, were arraigned for the manslaughter of Mak Kwai in Victoria Harbour on May 4th. They pleaded not guilty.

The Attorney General, in opening the case for the prosecution, said the prisoners and the deceased were employed on junk No. 941. On May 4th about one o'clock in the afternoon deceased adjusted a plank placed to facilitate the discharge of coal, and in doing so overturned a basket. The first prisoner came up, followed by the second, from the hold and accused deceased of throwing the basket into the water. They struck him with their fists and kicked him, and the man died the same afternoon. It was the old story of the ruptured spleen, but the gravity of the case consisted in the two men tackling one.

The first man said he heard a noise and on going up on deck was accused of assaulting the deceased. The second man declared he only attempted to prevent the fight and was arrested.

Both prisoners were found guilty.

The Judge said he drew a distinction between this case and the last. The men would be sentenced to six months' hard labour.

NO INDICTMENT.

In the case of the four men, Li Nang, Fung Chun, Chan Chok, and Li Ki-ho, charged with arson, the Attorney General said he would not proceed with the charge, and the Judge accordingly dismissed the defendants.

IN ADMIRALTY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE) AND HON. CAPTAIN L. A. W. BARNES-LAWRENCE (NAUTICAL ASSESSOR).

ANOTHER COLLISION CASE.

The case was continued in which Chan Pok-tai, owner of the junk "Lin Shing Lee", and the owners of her cargo, claimed damages from the s.s. "Hankow" for a collision which occurred between the vessels on November 15th.

Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. E. J. Grist (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist), appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., instructed by Mr. H. J. Gedge (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master), represented the defendants.

The evidence for the defence having been heard,

Mr. Sharp addressed his Lordship on behalf of the owners of the "Hankow", pointing out that the most important point in the case was that the junk neglected to carry a masthead light, and that neglect occasioned or contributed to the collision.

The case was again adjourned.

According to the *Nanfungpao* a memorial has been presented to the Throne by the Board of Education, recommending the sending to Japan of all the newly-appointed Superintendents of Education for three months' study prior to taking up their appointments.

Tuesday, May 22nd.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

MURDER IN GAOL.

Wong Tai, a prisoner in Victoria Gaol, was indicted for the murder of a fellow prisoner named Li Shing on May 1st. The Attorney General (Sir H. S. Berkeley) prosecuted, and Dr. Ho Kai defended.

The following jury were empanelled: Messrs. A. E. Robinson (foreman), T. C. Gray, H. Claven, P. D. H. Grant, F. O. Reynolds, W. Wotherpoon and Rudolf Goos.

E. J. Pierpont, chief warden in Victoria Gaol, stated that deceased was received into prison on 18th July, 1901, convicted of robbery, and sentenced to seven years' hard labour and twenty strokes with the birch. The prisoner Wong Tai was undergoing sentence of eight years' hard labour for piracy. About 7.30 on the morning of May 1st, when he was visiting the West Yard gaol, he heard someone shout from the shoemakers' shop. He immediately ran there and saw prisoner 115 standing up with a shoemaker's knife in each hand. Warden Driscoll was standing over prisoner with his baton half raised. Witness told him to remain still and then, ringing the alarm bell, went to the door of the shoemakers' shop and ordered all the prisoners to come out. This they did, falling in two deep outside, Wong Tai remaining inside under charge of Warden Driscoll. By that time the principal warden and other officers arrived on the scene. Then he noticed prisoner 19 (deceased) on the floor, and had him carried to the hospital. He ordered prisoner 115 to put down the knife, and after the order had been repeated several times prisoner did so. He noticed that the deceased had a wound on the right side of his neck and that he was covered in blood.

Cross-examined by Dr. Ho Kai—The prisoner amid all the confusion stood silent and unmoved, never speaking a word. The accused, who was within two months of his discharge, had had several reports against him for breach of discipline. Deceased and prisoner had worked together in the shoemakers' shop for several years, and so far as he knew they were on perfectly friendly terms. Both men were good workers. The character of the accused was indifferent, having been reported for disobedience, using obscene language, and fighting with prisoners, not the deceased. The last occasion he was reported for fighting was in September, 1903.

William Driscoll, warden, detailed the occurrence. The prisoner, who was sitting behind the deceased in the shoemakers' shop, suddenly rose from his seat and stabbed him twice in the neck with a shoemaker's knife. The deceased ran towards witness, and fell to the floor. Witness told prisoner to put down the knife, but instead of doing so he picked up another. The chief warden also told prisoner to put down the knife, and after a slight hesitation he put the weapons down. It appeared to witness that there was a slight jealousy between the two men because Li Shing was a better shoemaker than the prisoner. Wong Tai was always a sulky prisoner.

After the evidence of eye-witnesses and Dr. Moore,

Dr. Koch was called. He stated, in reply to the questions of the Attorney General, that the prisoner was of a very low mental type and though at the time of examination he was not insane, witness considered that insanity might develop.

Under cross-examination he expressed the opinion that the accused acted under an impulse of homicidal insanity, and did not act from any premeditated intention or malice aforethought. Then you would say that the man was acting under an irresistible impulse to kill?—Yes; in the absence of any apparent motive I should say it was an irresistible impulse to kill somebody.

Dr. Ho Kai submitted that on the facts of the case, together with the medical evidence, that the man killed the deceased during a fit of temporary insanity.

The jury returned a verdict of guilty.

The Judge—I thoroughly agree with the jury. Tell him the only possible defence was set up and argued on his behalf, but the jury

have come to the conclusion that the evidence in support of insanity is not sufficient. If he is let off on that ground there would be no convictions whatever. Before I pass sentence on him, has he anything further to say?

Prisoner (through the interpreter)—No, I will leave it to your Lordship to decide whatever you like.

The Judge then donned the black cap and passed sentence of death.

IN ADMIRALTY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE) AND HON. CAPTAIN L. A. W. BARNES-LAWRENCE (NAUTICAL ASSESSOR).

ANOTHER COLLISION CASE.

The case was continued in which Chan Pok-tai, owner of the junk "Lin Shing Lee", and the owners of her cargo, claimed damages from the s.s. "Hankow" for a collision which occurred between the vessels on November 15th.

Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. E. J. Grist (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist), appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., instructed by Mr. H. J. Gedge (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master), represented the defendants.

Mr. Sharp continued his address for the defence, and at the close of Mr. Slade's speech his Lordship intimated that judgment would be reserved.

Wednesday, 23rd May.

IN ADMIRALTY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE) AND HON. CAPTAIN L. A. W. BARNES-LAWRENCE (NAUTICAL ASSESSOR).

THE COLLISION CASE.

Judgment was delivered on the case in which Chan Pok-tai, owner of the junk "Lin Shing Lee", and the owners of her cargo, claimed damages from the s.s. "Hankow" for a collision which occurred between the vessels on November 15th. Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. E. J. Grist (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist), appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., instructed by Mr. H. J. Gedge (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master), represented the defendants.

His Lordship said—In this case we have two questions to determine. The first is whether the junk was to blame for not having had her regulation lights burning and the second is whether the "Hankow" was to blame. After giving the matter careful consideration, we have come to the conclusion that the junk did not have her masthead light burning as required by law. The question then remains as to the defaults, if any, of the "Hankow", and I have to look at this from two points of view. (1) I think it is legitimate I should look at it as a lawyer. As the conclusion to which a lawyer would come on the nautical evidence could not by any imaginary means be considered satisfactory to sailors, the law has provided that I should be assisted by a nautical assessor. I think the case really is one in which I should be justified in giving my opinion as a lawyer. Now it is clear to me from the evidence of the second mate that what he saw was this:—"About a mile, probably less, he saw a dark object ahead of him: he took bearings and continued straight on his course for two minutes: he was then proceeding at ten knots." The facts showed that if the object was stationary that would have brought his vessel, going at that speed, into what must have been dangerous proximity to that dark object. He himself was satisfied that it was a junk and during the whole of these two minutes he did not see the junk alter her course. During the two minutes afterwards she was going practically, to the lay mind, right at it. I know "direct" is not strictly accurate, because in fact the junk was on a course, which strictly speaking, was crossing his bows. She was to all intent and purpose going straight at him. That to my mind shows she was clearly wrong in not taking previous action. It would be impossible that a judgment should be acceptable based on such very broad lines and I, therefore, with the

assistance of the Assessor, have worked out accurately what actually happened from the times given to the occurrences related by the second mate in his evidence. Now at 9.14 his course was south-east or east. At 9.16 he sighted the junk half a point on his starboard bow, one mile off. The very careful calculations made by the Assessor showed that it was two-thirds of a mile off. At 9.18—he had then been two minutes without altering his course—the junk was drawing ahead, going north-west, waleob, I take it, would cross his bows from starboard to port, two degrees on the starboard bow. He ported his helm and then the junk was one point on the port bow, which was afterwards increased to one and a half points and afterwards to two points. He then estimated the junk to be 230 or 300 yards away. I think he afterwards said half a mile. He seems to have been uncertain as to the actual distance. The Assessor calculates, on these figures, that the junk was 400 yards away. He says that if the junk had kept her course she would have passed 240 yards off the "Hankow". This is nearly accurate if the position of the junk at 9.18 is correctly stated. The Assessor calculates the distance would have been 450 yards on the figures given. After referring to the times given by the engineer he said they could not accept the theory that the junk turned into the "Hankow", for if she did the light on her stern, which was burning brightly, must have been visible on the "Hankow". In the circumstances he had deemed it advisable to put the following question to the Assessor:—

Did the fact that the "Hankow" continued on her course between 9.16 and 9.18 involve a risk of collision? Answer: Yes.

Ought any steps to have been taken to get out of the way of the junk under articles 17 and 18? Answer: Yes. At 9.16, when the junk was in fact sighted.

Was the risk of collision at any time pre-dangerous? Answer: No.

Were the steps taken at 9.18 sufficient to avert a collision? Answer: No.

Under the circumstances resulting from the previous answers, what steps should have been taken to prevent risk of collision? Answer: I am of opinion that when the junk was first sighted at 9.16 a decisive movement of the helm should have been given, in order to avoid any risk of collision. Continuing the course of the "Hankow" until 9.8 took the steamer into dangerously close proximity to the junk.

In conclusion, he said—We therefore hold both vessels were to blame. Judgment accordingly.

A NEW SOLICITOR.

The Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock moved that Mr. Andrew Gilmore Jackson be approved, admitted and enrolled to practise as a solicitor in that honourable Court. His Lordship would see that Mr. Jackson had practised as a solicitor in Dublin and he (the speaker) might mention that Mr. Jackson was a nephew of Sir Thomas Jackson, who had such a distinguished career in the Colony.

His Lordship said he was very pleased to admit Mr. Jackson to practise as a solicitor in the Colony, and trusted that the honoured name which he bore would guide him in his position.

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE (SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT).

MONEY LENDING TRANSACTIONS.

The Lai Tsun Bank, of 145, Queen's Road Central, claimed \$15,334, money due on promissory notes with \$9,000 interest, from Li Wai-tong, gentleman, and his brother, Li Kit-tong, also described as a gentleman, both residing in Victoria.

Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. Hastings appeared for complainant, while Hon. Dr. Ho Kai and the Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, instructed by Mr. G. K. Hall Brutton (of Messrs. Brutton and Hett), represented the first defendant.

It was stated that judgment had already been given against the second defendant.

Mr. Slade, in opening, said that the plaintiffs alleged that they lent the defendants three sums of money on different dates. The first defendant admitted having signed certain documents but denied that they were promissory notes. Plaintiffs asserted that he signed the documents

as surety for the repayment by the second defendant, but defendant said he was not liable because time was subsequently given the second defendant in which to pay.

Evidence was called in support of plaintiffs' contention, and the case was adjourned.

Friday, 25th May.

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE (SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT).

MONEY LENDING TRANSACTIONS.

The Lai Tsun Bank, of 145, Queen's Road Central, claimed \$15,834, money due on promissory notes with \$9,000 interest, from Li Wai-tong, gentleman, and his brother, Li Ki-tong, also described as a gentleman, both residing in Victoria. Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. Hastings, appeared for complainant, while Hon. Dr. Ho Kai and the Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, instructed by Mr. G. K. Hall Brutton (of Messrs. Brutton and Hall), represented the first defendant.

When the case was called on it was stated that negotiations had been opened between the parties, and pending settlement the case was adjourned *sine die*.

THE TRAGEDY AT THE THEATRE.

Before Mr. F. A. Hazeland and Messrs. A. F. de Xavier, J. Wilkie and F. Zettermann sitting as jurors, an inquiry was held at the Magistracy on May 22nd concerning the death of Constable A. Williams, whose body was found in Wardley Street on the night of the 12th instant under circumstances already recorded.

Dr. Bell, superintendent of the Government Civil Hospital, said that on the morning of May 13th he was called to see P. C. Williams, No. 46, who was then dead. He examined the body and found that underneath a scalp wound on the right side of the head there was an extensive fracture of the skull, which was the cause of death. A fall backwards from the City Hall windows, which are 12 feet 7 inches high, would have caused the fracture.

Detective Sergeant F. L. Clyde stated that fifteen minutes past eleven on the evening of May 4th, while on patrol, he entered the City Hall. A performance was going on at the time. He went up the stairs on the right hand side of the hall, where he saw the deceased standing alongside one of the supports of the dress circle. As the last act was being performed deceased passed him going down the stairs; about six or seven minutes after the play ceased, and he went down the stairway to the front of the hall to watch the audience disperse. As the last few were leaving his attention was attracted by a crowd in Wardley Street. On approaching it he heard a sick berth steward from the *Dindem* say "He is dead now". Witness found deceased lying in the water channel about three feet from the wall. An ambulance arrived about thirty-five minutes later and the body was removed.

Indian Constable 635 said he was on duty in Queen's Road and Wardley Street on the night in question. While looking in the direction of the chair stand he heard a noise in Wardley Street, as though something had fallen, and on looking round, saw a man lying on the ground. He went up to him and found it was Constable Williams. Blood was flowing from a wound in his head, but the constable was unconscious. Witness informed Sergeant Garrod, and then returned to his beat.

Sergeant Garrod stated that at about 11:45 p.m. on the 12th instant, he was regulating traffic in front of the City Hall, when the last witness informed him that a man had fallen down in Wardley Street and cut his head. Witness accompanied him to Wardley Street, where he saw a number of men standing over P. C. Williams, who was lying in the side channel. The deceased was bleeding from the nose and mouth. Witness sent for an ambulance and doctor at once. He and a sick berth steward from H.M.S. *Dindem* then rendered first aid. The ambulance arrived, but they could not get a doctor. Deceased lived about eight or ten minutes after witness reached him.

Inspector Warnock gave evidence as to deceased's duty on the day of his death. He said he had been on his feet practically all that day, and must have been exhausted in the evening. Witness' opinion was that he went to the window to have a smoke; probably he fell asleep, woke up with a start as the audience were leaving and fell backward, or he might have taken a weak turn and fallen out of the window. There was no suggestion of foul play.

After Mr. Hazeland reviewed the evidence the jury returned a verdict of death by misadventure.

THE I. M. C.

SIR ROBERT HART'S RETIREMENT.

Opinion is still divided on the question of whether Sir Robert Hart has been superseded or not. Many journals hold the opinion that on the face of it the Chinese are trying to eliminate the foreign influence. The ambition is probable enough, but we cannot dismiss the reflection that it would be a move too impudent even for Peking.

The Foreign Ministers held a conference at the Italian Legation on the 19th inst. The following explanation from the Waiwupu is subtle: The Waiwupu addressed the Diplomatic Corps in Peking on the 11th inst., stating that owing to the infirmity of Sir Robert Hart, the time for his retirement had arrived, and the Government could not appoint another man in his place without fearing complications. Hence the appointment of the two Chinese Commissioners.

The Nanfangpao's explanation is less casualistic:

"It is reported that Their Majesties the Empress Dowager and the Emperor have granted the application of Sir Robert Hart to resign his appointment as Inspector-General of I. M. Customs, in order to enable him to return home to pass his declining years." This was the reason for the appointment of two Chinese Commissioners of Customs to fill the post vacated by him. Similarly Chinese Commissioners will be appointed over the Imperial Postal Service to fill the vacancy left by Sir Robert Hart. The same paper states that Their Excellencies T'ieh Liang and Tang Shao-yi will soon establish a Customs Department in Peking, to facilitate the control over the Customs service.

Papers in Tientsin and Japan consider the excuses for the Chinese appointments to be flimsy. The British, American, Italian, and Japanese Ministers have addressed further notes to the Waiwupu with regard to the appointment of the Chinese High Commissioners of Customs. Chinese Government bonds secured by the Customs revenue have dropped in value in Europe and America. The Ministers request the Chinese Government to annul the appointments.

The well informed Chinese correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* says that owing to the misapprehension of the Ministers of the various Powers in Peking as to the reason of the recent appointment to the Customs the Waiwupu has instructed the Chinese Ministers accredited to the various governments of Europe and America to call upon the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, explaining the steps taken by the Chinese Government in the matter. That is to say that the appointments were made to settle life matters brought about by the resignation of Sir Robert Hart while at the same time the *status quo* relating to the machinery of the Customs service will continue to be observed.

THE HONGKONG MAGISTRACY.

The report of Mr. F. A. Hazeland, First Police Magistrate, published in the *Government Gazette*, shows that during the year the total number of cases on the list was 13,450 in which the number of prisoners was 18,475. Of these cases 231 are not yet denied. Of the prisoners mentioned and punished; 2,323 were discharged; 87 were committed for trial at the Supreme Court; 20 were committed to prison or detained pending orders from H.E. the Governor and 380 were ordered to find security. Ten witnesses were punished for preferring false charges or bearing wilful false testimony and 7,589 writs were issued by the Magistrates during the year.

A YEAR'S CRIME AT HONGKONG.

FINGER PRINTS USEFUL.

The annual report of the Captain Superintendent of Police, shows a slight decrease in the year's crime, as compared with the 1904 report. The total of all cases reported to the police was 11,517, as against 11,812 in 1904, being a decrease of 295 or 2.49 per cent. Six cases come under the heading of murder. In one, a Filipino was convicted and sentenced to death, but the sentence was subsequently commuted to imprisonment for life; in three no arrest was made, and in two the prisoners were acquitted at the Criminal Sessions. There was one case of justifiable homicide and 13 cases of manslaughter, in five of which convictions were recorded.

There were 22 gang robberies reported during the year. In connection with nine of these cases 26 prisoners were arrested, 24 being convicted and two discharged. In 13 cases no arrest was made. Five of these robberies took place in the City of Victoria, one occurring in the Eastern, two in the Central and two in the Western District. Of the remaining 17, one was reported from Yauwatti district and 16 were reported from the New Territory. Thirteen cases of street and highway robberies were reported, of which four occurred in the New Territory. In connection with three of these cases, four persons were arrested, 3 being convicted and one discharged. In 10 cases no arrest was made. Thirteen cases of robbery on boats and junks were reported, of which seven occurred in the New Territory. In connection with two of these cases six persons were arrested, three being convicted and three discharged. In the remaining 11 cases, no arrest was made. Felonies not already given comprise the following cases:—

Arson and attempted arson, 4; attempt to wreck a tram car, 1; sodomy, 1; cutting and wounding, 5; demanding money by menaces, 5; detaining for ransom, 1; embezzlement, 43; forgery, 13; housebreaking, 9; shooting and wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm, 5; and throwing corrosive fluid, 2. Ninety-eight gambling warrants were executed and convictions obtained, as against 70 in 1904; 3 being lottery cases. In 21 cases no gambling was found. It is not easy to say whether these figures indicate a great increase in gambling or only that the Police have been more successful in obtaining information. The value of the property reported stolen during the year was \$2,873,18. Of this sum, \$1,918,180 comes under the category of larcenies by bailies, *i.e.*, thefts and fraud by trusted servants (clerks, shroffs, compradores, etc.), a class of crime which police cannot prevent and in which, owing to the ease with the offenders can escape from the Colony and the difficulty of tracing them, it is very hard to obtain arrests and convictions. The sums so stolen are sometimes very large. There were two such thefts of \$52,000 and \$20,210 respectively from a bank, and eight others of \$1,000 and upwards, including one of \$12,000 from other persons. The value of the property recovered by the police and restored to owners was \$17,622,80. 3,951 search warrants for prepared opium were executed by the police and excise officers of the Opium Farmer, as compared with 2,444 in 1904. In 1,109 cases of opium was found and 1,419 persons were arrested. Twenty-five cases were instituted under the weights and measures Ordinance and in each case a conviction was recorded, the fines inflicted totalling \$1,081. The following arms and ammunition were seized and confiscated during the year, *viz.*:— 0 revolvers, 57 muskets, 17 rifles, 10 swords, 2 shot guns, 3 fighting irons, 923 rounds of revolver ammunition, 312 rounds of rifle ammunition, 91 lbs. powder, 25 lbs. dynamite, 6 spurs, 10 boxes percussion caps, 10 empty shells, 1,000 primers, and one set loading tools. In April, 1904, shortly after my return from leave, I introduced into the gao Mr. Henry's system of taking finger prints of all criminals before discharge. Finger prints of persons who are banished from the Colony, or passed through here on banishment from the Straits Settlements or elsewhere, are also taken, by the detective staff, and added to the collection. On the 21st December, 1905, the collection numbered 3,544 male records and 212 female.

Since October, 1904 the finger prints of all persons arrested for all criminal offences have been taken by Police at the time of arrest, for the purpose of detecting previous convictions. The old system of taking the prisoners into the gaol to see whether the warders can recognize them as old offenders has been continued concurrently. By means of the finger prints I identified during the year 123 persons as being old offenders. Of these, 103 had served sentences in gaol, 19 had been convicted of unlawful possession and paid their fines, and one was a man who had been banished from the Straits Settlements. Of the 103 who had been in gaol all except seven were recognised independently by the warders, but those who had not been in gaol would, but for the finger prints, almost certainly have gone unrecognised as previous offenders.

NEW TERRITORY POLICE RECORDS.

Mr. G. N. Orme, Assistant Superintendent of Police in the New Territory, reports as under:—

During the year 1905 there was not a large amount of serious crime in the New Territory and it was chiefly remarkable for its equal distribution through out the year, of which the early part produced fewer robberies than the later, and the period before and after Chinese New Year was free from the robberies by which it is usually characterised. The north-west borders of the Territory (previous to the erection of the block-house mentioned below) and the south of Mira Bay with the Island of Ping Chau, again suffered most from these depredations; however, the last successful raid upon Ping Chau Island induced the islanders to obtain permission to form a guard, which has repulsed a subsequent attempt at robbery: it is to be hoped that a similar spirit of enterprise may in future animate other parts of the Territory. As usual, the large majority of the minor offences were contraventions of the Opium Ordinance; larcenies have been of rare occurrence and it is noticeable that debts are seldom denied or disputed, which greatly facilitates the administration of justice. What was formerly the most exposed part of the Territory is now well protected by the block-house at the Ta Ku Ling, on the north of the Sheung Shui District. This was commenced on January 27th, at which date one Indian sergeant and four Indian constables (of whom two Constables were detailed from Sheung Shui and the others from the Central) were accommodated in tents close by, until they moved into the quarters in March. The block-house is connected by telephone with Sheung Shui and Sha Tau Kok and has proved of incalculable value. The past year has been distinguished in the New Territory by two excellent crops of rice, and by appearances of increased prosperity throughout most districts, shown in the construction of new houses and in a constant demand for theatrical performances; but I regret that this has not led to an increased readiness to pay rent. The redemption of land for the new road led to prompter payments by the districts concerned, and it is pleasant to report that the poorer districts of Sai Kung and Sha Tau Kok have paid without pressure, but the south-western districts of Tsun Wan and Tai Lam Chung have paid nothing, and owing to their distance from the police stations it is difficult to collect these rents. Nor has much success attended the arrangements made with certain elders for the maintenance of certain roads in the roads in the Territory. Throughout the year the Chinese officials on the frontier have co-operated with the police in a most friendly manner.

HONGKONG POST OFFICE.

A YEAR'S WORK.

The following extracts are made from the report of the Postmaster General, published in the current *Gazette*:—The mails dealt with by the Postal Department amounted to 138,897 bags and packets, as against 10,641 last year. There are five pillar-boxes in the Peak, 10 in Victoria and six in Kowloon. The number of articles posted in these, during 1905, was 92,170, as against 66,743 in 1904, and 48,110 in 1903. This is a complete justification of the appointment of special messengers to clear these boxes instead of leaving that duty to postmen whose punctuality had to be sacrificed

to the varying demands of deliveries. 638,977 registered articles and parcels were dealt with in the General Post Office, Hongkong, an increase of 39,919 with an average of 2,041 on each working day, as against 1,914 on the last annual return. The great number handled on a single day was 7,011. In addition to this, 104,313 passed through the various Agencies but not through Hongkong, making a total for the Administration of 743,290. An arrangement for the transmission of parcels to and from German New Guinea and the German South Sea Islands direct, instead of via London as heretofore, came into force on April 20th, 1905. During the year ending December 31st, 1905, two hundred and ten registered articles and eight parcels, evidently intended to be despatched by registered or parcel post, were found in the drop-box of the General Office, they were sent to the Registration Branch and forwarded. The revenue amounted to \$414,833.19, being an increase of \$6,379.27 as against an expenditure of \$585,449.25. Under expenditure there is a very heavy increase of \$2,869,269, due principally to the final settlement of the claim of the Imperial Post Office against this Colony for the share of the subsidy to the P. & O. Steam Navigation Company, from 1st February, 1898, to 31st January, 1905. The transactions in money orders of all currencies show increased business. Comparing the figures of 1904 and 1905, the increase in profits on exchange on money order transactions in the latter year is \$1,780.16. Arrangements were made during the year for the direct exchange of money orders with Germany and German Colonies and also with Macao. 63,485 articles of correspondence were dealt with in the Dead Letter Office during the year 1905. 33,514 being returned by Hongkong to other administrations and 29,971 being received from other administrations. Of these latter 7,415 originating in Hongkong or at its Agencies were returned to the senders, but a very large number of Chinese written letters, owing to the absence of any definite address of the sender or even the name of the sender, it was found impossible to return. At the General Post Office the following correspondence failed to be delivered:—Foreign letters 8,291, post cards 363, books, etc., 6,124, and local letters 1,785, post cards 18, books, etc., 2,997. The first mentioned class were returned to their respective offices of origin, and form part of those mentioned as being returned by Hongkong, and of the last mentioned it was possible to return to the senders 2,954. In 42 ordinary letters opened in the Dead Letter Office and returned to the senders there were found the following:—Money orders to the value of £2 6s. 6d., postal orders to the value of £22 3d. 0d., cheques for £5 9s. and 5s. respectively, bank drafts for 15s. 6d., and \$15 respectively, and in one letter a bank note for \$5 and a 50 cent coin. In addition to the above it may be mentioned that 40 Chinese letters were irregularly posted with coin (consisting in each case, with but one or two exceptions of one or two Chinese cash). 23 of these were returned to the senders compulsorily registered and the remaining 17, owing to absence of sender's name or address, were destroyed, their contents being converted into local currency and paid into the credit of the Government under the head of unpaid postage. A record was kept during this year of the number of picture post cards which were posted without the name or address of the persons for whom they were intended, and these reached a total of 65. It may be interesting to mention that in not a few cases these cards were posted in the same condition as they had been purchased, and consequently the senders could not be traced. A new variety of picture post card appeared bearing fictitious imitations of postage stamps of the different countries of the world instead of the usual views. It was brought to the notice of this office by the General Post Office, London, which, at the same time, intimated that the admission of such cards to the United Kingdom was prohibited by its Regulations. 123 of these cards were returned by London and 11 others found at different times in the mails at this office addressed to places in the United Kingdom were withdrawn. Where the sender's name appeared on them they were returned. Up to the present, how-

ever, no other country in the Postal Union has intimated its refusal of admission to these cards.

FIRES AT HONGKONG.

Captain F. J. Badeley, Superintendent of the Fire Brigade, reports that there were 32 fires and 77 incipient fires during 1905, as against 57 and 64 in 1904. The estimated damage caused by fires was \$327,425.00 and by incipient fires \$1,708.00. The Brigade turned out 48 times during the year. There was an intermittent supply of water in the mains from 27th February to 28th March, during which period sea water was used as much as possible in order to save the fresh water. Three fires occurred in the harbour during the year. There were two prosecutions for arson. The first was in connection with the fire at No. 168, Hollywood Road, where ten persons lost their lives. Two men were arrested and convicted at the Criminal Sessions and sentenced to imprisonment for life. The second was in connection with the fire at No. 462, Des Vaux Road West. Two men were arrested and convicted at the Criminal Sessions and sentenced to seven and five years' imprisonment respectively.

THE ROYAL SANITARY INSTITUTE.

STUDYING BRICK MAKING.

The members of the Sanitary Institute had another of their pleasant and instructive excursions on the 19th May. On this occasion the Brick and Tile Works at Deep Water Bay was their destination, the privilege to inspect the works being kindly given by Messrs Shewan Tomes & Co., while the Hon. Mr. E. A. Hewett placed the launch *Dragon* at their disposal. Arrived at Deep Water Bay, the party were met by Mr. Witchell, the manager, and conducted over the works, the different processes of brick and pipe making being demonstrated. The visitor was enabled to realise the intelligence and knowledge which led to the adoption of that site for the works when he noted that practically all the materials required in brick-making are to be found at hand, there being no less than ten grades of clay obtained there. Prior to the students taking their departure the Hon. Dr. Clark expressed their appreciation of the service rendered by Mr. Witchell. The following members and students attended:—Hon. Dr. Francis Clark, Lieut. T. J. Clark, R.E., Messrs. H. E. Goldsmith, A. R. E. Raven, H. E. Haggard, W. S. Bissell, P. T. Lambie, R. Himmings, A. R. Bone, S. R. Boyd, C. W. Ward, J. A. Bullin, J. Cole, A. F. Samy, W. J. Lewington, A. W. Simmons, C. W. Brott, R. Duncan, D. J. O'Halloran, F. W. Swaffield, A. Williams, C. E. Frith, G. W. Coysh, H. E. Craddock, A. Ramsay and Alfred Carter.

APPOINTMENTS.

H. E. the Governor has been pleased to make the following appointments:—Mr. J. Macdonald, Government Marine Surveyor, to approve and certify on his behalf from time to time the position of any line indicating the load-line and any alteration thereof on all British and colonial ships registered in the Colony, (except ships under 25 tons, pleasure yachts, ships not trading or plying for hire, and ships employed solely as tug-boats); Hon. Dr. Ho-kai to be a member of the Medical Board for a further term of three years; Mr. John E. Menach to be chief storekeeper in connection with the Kowloon-Canton Railway, British section, and J. H. Wood to be a member of the Squatters' Board vice Mr. F. J. Badeley.

GROWTH OF CHINANFU.

We are informed that the new foreign settlement and trade port of Chinanfu, Shantung, is developing fast. Houses have sprung up, and many are building, and still the demand continues. Land values and house-rents are doubling themselves, and Chinese traders and craftsmen are flocking into the place. This is a result of the railway, and the co-operation of German and British enterprise.

CHINESE VIEW OF PLAGUE MEASURES.

Following is the text of a series of articles appearing in the *Chung Ngai San Po*, specially translated for the *Daily Press*:-

The chief topic of conversation here at the present moment is admittedly the unbearable state of the Sanitary laws, against which members of the Board have appealed and discussions raised at the meetings of the Board. H.E. Sir Matthew Nathan, the Governor, hearing the complaints was much struck, has appointed a commission to enquire into the matter with a view to ascertain the feelings of the people and to take such steps as will meet with the requirements of the day.

The Sanitary laws have been enforced for some years; one may ask why there are so many complaints now, while there have hardly been any before? Is it because the laws are more arbitrarily enforced now than they were in former years? Though the reply must be in the negative, yet there are good reasons for these complaints.

It is human nature to rejoice to live and hate to die. It must be known to all that when one is attacked with plague, his life is greatly endangered, so everyone must be glad to see some means devised to combat the disease. When the sanitary laws were first introduced, people were under the impression that these laws would ensure the safety of their lives, and they therefore quietly put up with any little inconvenience that might be occasioned through the enforcement in the interests of the public health; but who would have thought that, in spite of these laws, the people in Hongkong suffer from plague just as bad as Canton whenever that disease is prevalent there? Some remarks may also be applied to Macao, except that the number of cases there is even less than in Hongkong. On the other hand, when we take the existing sanitary laws of these three places and compare them carefully, we find that neither is there a Sanitary Board in Canton nor are even officials appointed to look after the sanitary affairs. Its inhabitants can do what they like without any interference, while in Macao, though a Sanitary Board exists and special officers are appointed for the work, and the laws are far less severe there than in Hongkong, yet the number of plague cases is about the same and sometimes it is even less. Such is the result of our sanitary measures here; dissatisfaction naturally prevails. The inhabitants thought that the laws once made would remain in force for some considerable time to come, and while knowing that it was not easy to comply with same they quietly submitted to the inevitable. But these laws are getting burdensome every day. Sometimes a law approved of by one officer was rejected by another. With constant change people do not know what to go by. People therefore thought of leaving the colony altogether to avoid the law. Trade in turn suffers and complaints are rife more than ever. Fortunately, H.E. the Governor, having the welfare of his subjects at heart, has ordered enquiries to be made. This is a good chance for the public to ventilate their grievances. Having carefully looked into the hardships of the inhabitants, and ascertained their opinions, we submit the following suggestions:-

1. *The old law governing cubicles and partitions should be restored.* Owing to the high value of landed property in Hongkong house rent is almost as dear as in England. The Chinese labour being so cheap, very few of them can afford to rent a whole floor. Usually three or more families share a floor together. As a rule they depend upon the partitions for their privacy, therefore to have cubicles in a house is as important as to have clothes to cover one's body. The Public Health and Building Ordinance, however, requires people to pull down all cubicle partitions. In spite of protests made against same by merchants and the local press, the erection of cubicles is only permitted under certain strict limitations. In some instances, in houses in the narrow lanes, only one cubicle is allowed, and in some none at all. In other cases, curtains are used at night and taken off in the day time, causing great inconvenience to female occupants. When quarrelsome women are on

bad terms with their house-mates, family secrets form the chief part of the bitter clamour of their tongues, which is one of the abuses of having no cubicles. It may be argued that cubicles interfere with light and ventilation, but this is provided for in the Public Health Ordinance, as under that Ordinance all partitions must be four feet from the ceiling and 2 inches from the floor. Since boarding-houses and business firms are allowed to have cubicles made of railings or lattice-work, why not family houses? If the idea of abolishing cubicles is to prevent overcrowding, then the one cannot have any connection with the other, as all houses are carefully measured and the number of persons they can accommodate is marked out in each case. Moreover, people can live in a house with no cubicles. We may say the lower classes and labourers are even glad to have no cubicles, as by dispensing with them they can put up more bunks, the letting of which would give them more rent. As foreign ladies cover their faces with veils even when going out, why are Chinese ladies for the sake of decency not allowed to have a place of privacy? It is a blemish spot on a civilized Government! With a view to meet the wishes of the people, we suggest that railings be allowed to be used for partitions in ill-ventilated houses, as is done in lodging-houses and business firms. Houses that are well lighted and ventilated should be left to the discretion of the tenants themselves in respect of cubicles.

2. *The number of persons that a house can accommodate should be increased.* Since plague first broke out in the year 1894, a minimum of 300 cubic feet of air space per head was fixed by the authorities to prevent overcrowding in Chinese houses. Though the law was then in force, no inspection was made of the number of tenants in each house except that each cubicle must be of certain dimensions. But since the present Public Health and Building Ordinance was passed in 1903, the air space was increased to 500 cubic feet per head. Besides, the number of men each floor can legally accommodate is painted on the wall; inspections are made at midnight and the law generally has been strictly enforced. Owing to the dearth of rent the Chinese inhabitants have already felt that they can ill afford to have their families in Hongkong with the present strict enforcement of the overcrowding laws, coupled with the constant rise in house rent. It costs \$3 per man per month to live in the Central and Western districts. Even in the east and west ends of the town, where house rent is cheaper, each man has to pay about \$2 a month. Those of the small traders with a scanty income and with a family of several members to support, and who could enjoy a fairly comfortable life before, must now leave the Colony because they cannot afford to meet the exorbitant rent. There is no overcrowding law in Canton and Macao, yet we have never heard of plague breaking out through overcrowding. If it is feared that, on account of the dearth of house rent, people might overcrowd themselves irrespective of their health and comfort, this can be stopped by taking down cocklofts and limiting the dimensions of cubicles; but if, on the other hand, this procedure is still considered unsatisfactory, we suggest we should revert to the old law of laying down 300 cubic feet of air space for each man. What advantage would be gained by being so arbitrary in enforcing the law?

3. *The law should not be constantly changed.* Since the enforcement of the new Public Health and Building Ordinance, kitchens have to be cut open for backyards. Kitchen walls have to be cemented, and ground surfaces concreted. Lime-washing must be done twice a year, and the use of cement and thick planks for upper floors is sometimes insisted upon in lieu of square tiles. All these are heavy burdens on the property owners, yet in some cases the cement and concrete work of a house of the same block done by the same contractor less than a year ago have to be done over again upon the change of a new inspecting officer, while houses in the same condition are left untouched. This is indeed a puzzle to anyone. Similar treatment is also meted out to owners in connection with lime-washing. They were often found fault with, and the work had to be done over again. With the present high value of property in Hongkong, even if no alteration whatever is re-

quired to be done, owners could only get 5 to 6 per cent. on their investment after deducting crown rent, police rates and premiums for insurance, but should sanitary alterations be required, the owners could not help suffering from pecuniary loss. The consequence is that wealthy merchants and well-to-do men would rather withhold their money than invest it on landed property. The revenue from stamp duties will thereby suffer, and merchants will not get loans of money so readily as they might have done. Can anyone say that this is not affecting the prosperity of the Colony? This is another abuse arising from the severity of the new laws.

4. *Let us again describe in detail what we have heard and seen.* As a rule, death is the most lamentable loss and a corpse the most dreadful object to a Chinese. In case of death, the usual custom is for friends to go and console the relatives of the deceased and to keep company with them, so that their sad bereavement may not be so keenly felt. But when a case of plague occurs in Hongkong, a constable is immediately sent to guard the house, and prevent the occupants from having any communication with outside. They, however, for fear of having to be subjected to the cleansing process always try to leave the house before the constable could arrive, leaving behind only the relatives of the deceased. The male relatives by turn also sneak away, leaving in the house only some old women, because the former knew that fumigation would detain them at home from doing their usual business. The end will be that the weak-minded women left behind and confined in the house with weep and wail. Even a man of iron fortitude may shed tears when he hears of such treatment. This is their first hardship. While gangs of cleansing coolies arrive with dust-carts and buckets dashing about is sufficient to frighten the ignorant Chinese women, how much worse would their terror be when they heard the sounds attending the destruction of their cubicles and the throwing about of their furniture? Moreover, while confined in a house with things in a state of confusion, it will be impossible for them to cook their food even when hungry. They are as a rule compelled to take off their own clothing and wear those supplied by the Sanitary Board, that are insufficient to keep warm. Thus with cold and hunger added to terror as they suffer from, how often will sickness not befall the relatives themselves?

Some women suffer from sickness after their houses have been disinfected and cleansed, in which case they generally leave the Colony at once. Such cases may not be known to the authorities. This is their second hardship.

We have often seen plague infected houses which have been cleansed. Not only are their cubicles and partitions completely taken down, but also the household furniture damaged and lost. This is because the work has been left entirely to the cleansing coolies themselves, who bear different characters. Moreover, when plague breaks out in one family, cleansing has to be done in the whole house. The inmates generally suffer loss to the amount of several hundred dollars, and sometimes as much as over a thousand. During the régime of Governor Blake, it was decided to grant compensation for damages that might be done by the cleansing gangs. Though the compensation granted did not cover the full value of the property yet the loss they had to suffer then was not so great as it is now. No wonder therefore that plague is regarded by the people as a rebellion in time of peace, as the havoc wrought by it is comparatively the same. This is their third hardship.

The water supply of this Colony is entirely derived from mountain streams. Before the Tytam reservoir was constructed the Colony had about 200,000 inhabitants, and the supply could always meet the consumption except in time of a long drought. Since the erection of the reservoir and other dams, the storage capacity has trebled the quantity, while the population is estimated to be only about 220,000. Soon after the commencement of the present Chinese New Year, there has been a long spell of wet weather for several months, and while floods and inundations are reported in the interior of China, the water in the reservoirs of Hongkong on the other hand is less than before, and only an intermittent supply is given. What is the cause of this? It is because the sanitary law requires general cleanings to be done no matter

whether plague is prevalent or not, thereby more water is wasted than what is consumed by the inhabitants. As people cannot live without fire and water, so these two elements are to them more important than grain. Being constantly deterred, so to speak, by water famine, because the supply is not even enough for culinary purposes, how can one be expected to spare the water for washing purposes, and to keep their bodies and houses in a cleanly condition? This is their fourth hardship.

Such are the hardships generally suffered by the people of plague infected house.

Ever since the strict enforcement of sanitary laws hardships are inflicted on people even not in time of plague. But if unfortunately any of the inmates of the same floor contracts the disease, the sufferings of the contacts would be indescribable. It follows, therefore, that the moment one contracts the disease, he will at once leave the Colony without even daring to consult a medical practitioner or to get medicine, for fear that by doing so the news of the existence of a case would be spread, and that not only his own family would then be ruined, but that the contacts of the same floor would have to suffer hardships.

The consequence is that for want of medical aid, some died on the way on board the Canton steam-boat or private launches secretly hired for the purpose; and some died on account of the patients being in too moribund a condition to be cured on their return to the country.

The primary object of the sanitary law is to protect the lives of the people, but from the manner in which the law is enforced it only hastens their death. Those not aware of the above facts have even said that the Chinese like to breathe their last in their own native land. If that argument holds good, one may as well say it is the usual custom of the Chinese to slight their dead by dumping their bodies on the street. It has long been admitted by foreigners that the Chinese have great respect for their dead. What is the cause then that only the inhabitants here dump the corpses of their relatives into the street as if they were their worn-out shoes? It is because they are bound by the sanitary laws to report cases of death to the authorities, and cannot have a free hand to bury their dead. While they cannot hold out any hope with certainty to get back the body of their dead after a post-mortem examination, they cannot help to avoid the misery of having 80 or 90 per cent. of their household properties destroyed, and the inmates of the same floor involved in trouble.

They therefore suggest to themselves the advisability of dumping away their dead in order that their properties might be saved and their house-mates remain in peace. The proverb says that, when two evils are taken for comparison, one should always choose the evil of a lesser degree. Indeed the Chinese are very reluctantly compelled to conceal their sick and dump their dead. It is against their nature to do so.

Now, H. E. the Governor, being anxious to know the feelings of his subjects, has appointed a commission to make enquiry into the matter.

It is hoped that the feelings of the inhabitants as given above may receive attention, and that the law may be carried out with some consideration and sympathy. It is also hoped that in appointing members for the Sanitary Board in future, preference should be given to those who have a thorough knowledge of the habits and customs of the Chinese in order to avoid a recurrence of such abuses as described above. The Sanitary Board has been in existence for years, but only two representatives of the Chinese are on the Board. In vain have they tried to explain the feelings of the Chinese community, as recommendations of the Chinese members are not often supported by those members who have no knowledge of the Chinese customs. Besides, decisions of the Board are often arrived at by the majority of votes. With only two representatives at the Board, what can they do for the public? But if most of the members of the Board are thoroughly acquainted with the Chinese ways, they would always have a better knowledge of their feelings; otherwise the present law may be abolished to-day and similar laws may be re-established at some future date. Should such state of affairs be allowed to continue Chinese earning a small income would not

be able to have their families here, those who had been residing long in Hongkong would also think of temporarily leaving, and even those who felt slightly indisposed would at once leave to keep clear of the sanitary laws. Thus the number of men who would have left, should exceed 50,000. It is earnestly hoped that steps may be taken which may conduce to the public peace and the prosperity of trade.

THE PLAGUE "JOSS."

AND CRACKERS.

The nightly firing of crackers which annoyed residents in the Central District during the latter end of last week had, it appears, official sanction.

The pyrotechnics were connected with the plague epidemic, but it is not clear whether they represented an ovation to a protective "joss" or a warning to the devil of disease.

The point that occurs to us is whether, in view of the efforts that have been and are being made to educate the poorer Chinese in the common sense methods of fighting against infection it was wise to appear to give the official cachet to a superstitious and silly device.

Recently a member of the Sanitary Board argued that this cracker firing was better than whitewashing, as a disinfectant; but it is obvious that he meant when the fumes of powder were liberated indoors. The fireworks of the last two or three nights were discharged outside, on the public thoroughfares.

THE "V.R.C."

The Hongkong recreation club that is sufficiently popular to be known by its initials holds its annual meeting on the 30th inst.

From the various reports printed in readiness, we learn that a fair interest was taken in rowing during the season; that they won five out of eight inter-club races; that they own 22 boats; that the swimming bath proved immensely popular; that the splendidly equipped gymnasium is not so well patronized as it should be, and the appointment of a regular instructor is recommended; that out of \$4,101.61 worth of ebts signed at the bar, only \$64.11 worth were "bad", and an apparent profit of \$844.11 is shown; and that the balance from the general working account for 1905 was \$241.56, leaving the Club with a balance in reserve of \$26,253.76. There are 293 members, of whom only 41 are marked "absent".

TOO MANY ADMIRALS.

[Written for the Daily Press.]

It is stated in the Press that the *Dreadnought* will be fitted for the accommodation of two Admirals. The accommodation will be in the fore instead of after part of the ship as heretofore. This being an entirely new denature has caused much speculation.

"Wonders will never cease, mate!" said the sailor; "Two admirals aboard one ship! One were bad enough, but two! Why, good Lord! The ocean aint big enough for 'em! If there aint the devil to pay with two of these 'ere fighting cocks at close quarters day in and day out it'll surprise me. They're going to cage 'em up forward, I see, under the foc's'le instead of aft over the screw as before. That'll blow the smell o' wine and wittles right through the ship so's all 'ands'll know what's going on in the admirals' stomach. Fancy you and me, mate, gettin a whiff o' steak and onions the port side, happie sauce and pork chops to starboard and mixed spirits coming amidships! You'll 'ave the admiral on the port side a-shouting to the Marice to know why he hadn't ordered that vulgar smell of happie sauce to stay its own side of the ship, whilst the starboard admiral will be drawing up orders forbidding fried onions to be used in the Fleet. This here's only part of the domestic side of the question. What about the fighting side? This here battleship 'll have to have best part of its fighting space devoted to admirals' accommodation and admirals' staff accommodation. 'All the Marices 'll be used up as guards for one of 'em and the other half for 'other. Where they'll put the guns and so on is a

puzler, wot with pantries, store rooms and wine cupboards. It don't seem to say in the papers whether they're going to give these gents a bridge apiece to play about on or whether they'll put 'em both on one bridge with a steel shield amidships to prevent their killing one another. Each of 'em 'll have his flag too, and want it fied from the same spot? Unless the admiralty allows 'em to carry their own flag about pinned on to 'em or sticking out of a breast pocket like a handkercher. I s'pose each of 'em 'll want a band, and both bands 'll want to play at the same time—only different tunes; likewise you'll get them a-having two church services of a Sunday morning, and one lot 'll sing its hardest whilst t'other wants to do a quiet little bit of preaching or reading. This 'ud take place in cold blood, mind you! But bow about when these fellers gets their blood up! Fancy bearing down on a enemy with what guns there's room for pointed and loaded.

"Hard sport!" one admiral would order, so as to get his side into the scrimmage first.

"Hard astarboard!" the other would bawl at once, and wot with one order contradicting another that blessed ship would zig-zag into action and probably be spifficated afore she'd done any damage at all. Two heads in one ship 'ud come about the same use as a boy born with two. Very extraordinary to look at and talk about but practically no use to anyone! These here freaks dies young too and this here putting of two admirals in one boat 'll prob'ly die out pretty quick. I'm glad you and me, mate, aint going to sea in this here *Dreadnought*. It 'ud be all dread and naught else, I fancy!"

(Left smoking and growling.)

EXTRAORDINARY DUMPING CASE.

On the 21st May as a European constable was walking along his beat at Temple Street, Yaumati, he observed the body of a woman falling from the second or third floor of a building. She landed on her feet and then fell backwards. The constable on approaching her discovered that she was a girl about sixteen years of age, and that she had been dead for some hours. He made inquiries about the girl from the occupants of the second and third floors, but nobody claimed the body. The constable, therefore, came to the conclusion that the body had been dumped, in order that the Sanitary authorities might not have access to the floors in question, and caused it to be removed to the Mortuary. There, it was found on examination that the cause of death was bubonic plague.

MACAO.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

May 21st.

ELECTRIC LIGHT.

The electric lighting so far is unsatisfactory.

DEATH OF A PROMINENT CITIZEN.

Sorrow is occasioned by the death on Saturday morning of Mr. Albino Antonio Pacheco, which sad event took place at the residence of his mother-in-law, whither he had gone for a change. Mr. Pacheco was ill for three months. As Consul for Italy and Siam for many years, he had been decorated by the Portuguese Government with the orders of Christo and Conceicao for good services rendered, and by the Chinese Government with the red button. He has very many friends in Hongkong, Shanghai, India and Europe. The funeral was very numerously attended. The coffin was covered with the Italian and Siamese flags. Mr. Pacheco left a widow and a large family.

ANOTHER DEATH.

Yesterday (Sunday) at 3 p.m. the wife of another popular and well-known citizen, Mr. Antonio J. Basto, passed quietly away at her residence, after a long illness. The deceased lady returned from a holiday at Shanghai some months ago.

AN OLD GRIEVANCE.

Mr. Dent, the proprietor of the Santa Sancha, is again having to complain of trespass and damage by the Public Works Department.

CANTON.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT).

May 17th.

A C STLY COLLISION.

The s.s. *Tungkong*, of the French Steam Navigation Co., running between Canton and Wuchow, had the misfortune, on the 15th inst., to run down a large junk. This vessel, the *Shun-on*, was carrying specie back to the rollers of silk, and over Fla. 20,000 of treasure and goods were said to be lost. The Chinese want to detain the *Tungkong* for settlement.

MODERN LIGHT AND ITS OBLIGATIONS.

The Chinese are sufficiently up-to-date to appreciate electric light, but they have not got used to the idea of paying the bill as promptly as the collector calls. H.B.M.'s Consul-General has intervened on behalf of the company, and the Viceroy has ordered the defaulters (all Government departments) to pay on demand.

CHINESE RIFLE SHOOTING.

Viceroy Shun's modern sharpshooters have something to learn yet. At the north gate yesterday twenty officers did well, but five times that number failed to get a single bull, although at short range.

A TRADE SENSATION.

A few days ago, I hear, the Man Shing shop, a fifty-year-old firm largely interested in metals, bought several piculs of zinc sheeting from a foreign firm on the Sham-shen. The Yuen Mo-kwong-se, who held a Government monopoly for the sale of such goods, caused excise men to seize the Man Shing's consignment as soon as it was delivered. The foreign vendors reported this to their Consul whereupon the monopolists suggested to the Viceroy and Nam-Hoi that the Man Shing shop meant to make cartridges of the zinc. This is a capital charge, and the people are shocked by the murderous jealousy of the monopolists. A *Kuifong* meeting was convened on the 13th, at which it was stated the Man Shing had for many years bought zinc from the monopolists, without any suggestion of illegality. The *Kuifong* agreed to support a protest through the Chamber of Commerce.

May 18th.

EXCITING TIMES FOR HONGKONG PIRATES.

An exciting scene occurred yesterday morning when the s.s. *Paul Beau* came up to her buoy at about 6.30 a.m. The authorities had been informed here the previous night that a gang of pirates who had been closely watched during their stay in Hongkong had taken passage on the *Paul Beau* to come up to Canton, doubtless to commit some further daring robberies. Soldiers were held in readiness by Colonel Yang, and when the steamer was nearing her buoy, the vessel was surrounded by guard boats to prevent any attempt at escaping. The pirates soon noticed that they were trapped and two of them made a bold bid for liberty by jumping on to a passing sampan. Their combined weight and the shock caused the sampan to capsize, and great confusion prevailed for half-an-hour. The pirates were caught and fished out of the water into dragon boats, where they were immediately fettered. There was considerable howling amongst the sampan people, who eventually managed to tow the upturned boat near the Sham-shen-bund in shallow water, where it was soon righted and the water bled out with that all-useful instrument the kerosene can. The Commanders of the *Oullao* and *Vigilante* sent a boat each to the rescue. Nobody was drowned. It is stated that nine pirates in all were arrested that morning. They are lodged in the Nam-Hoi gaol and will be summarily dealt with to-day.

OFFICIAL BANKS.

The Board of Revenue having established a Government Bank in Peking, intends likewise to open branches at Shanghai, Hankow, and Canton.

May 24th.

AUDACIOUS ROBBERS.

A band of robbers went into a fantan shop in the vicinity of the Tartar General's yamen on the 22nd inst., and having terrorised the inmates took all the cash in the house. They were leaving the premises when the alarm was given and half a dozen Manchu guards turned up. The robbers produced revolvers and a free

fight ensued, in the course of which three of the Guards were seriously wounded. Whistles were heard blowing in every direction, and after a hot chase four of the desperadoes were caught. The wounded men were immediately conveyed to the American Hospital, one being shot in the abdomen and the other in the groin. They were operated upon, but both succumbed yesterday. The third man is doing well and will recover. The robbery took place about mid-day and shows the audacity of these ruffians. They will be headed in a few days.

PLAGUE DECREASING.

Plague has considerably diminished here since the advent of better weather and the disease is now confined to the more crowded and insanitary parts of the city, viz., the district in the neighbourhood of the North Gate. There are still a few cases of cholera but not in an epidemic form. As long as Chinese will find delight in eating all manners of green fruits and raw vegetables such as melons and salted cucumbers it is not to be wondered at that a few should yearly die of cholera. Moreover, both the above diseases are confined to the lower classes, chair and other coolies being amongst the victims.

AMOY.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

May 13th.

LOTS OF TIGERS.

Since the beginning of the year numerous reports have been brought into Amoy from the surrounding country that tigers have been making depredations among the cattle in the mountain villages. Several hunts have been organized, but only in one instance has any success been met with. Lieut.-Colonel Fitton, of the West Kent Regiment, visited the port with a party of friends about a month ago, and succeeded in bagging a magnificent tigress in the Lam Tai Boo mountains. This beast had made quite a name for herself by walking off with pigs, dogs, &c., and kept up her reputation to the end by severely mauling one of the beaters who happened to be in at the death. He is now in the Amoy hospital and doing well. Many "China Hands" consider the Amoy tiger an overgrown cat, but I can assure them that this is a fallacy. Many have been killed not twenty miles from the settlement measuring over ten feet from tip to tip, which, if in India, would proclaim them Royal beasts. In the good old days, when Messrs. Bruce, of Tait & Co., and Burton, of B. & S., made a practice of bagging four or five "royals" in the season, numerous parties were organized to visit Mr. Stripes in his native wilds, but now with the advent of modern times, and the everlasting grab after the almighty dollar, this occasional sport of kings has fallen into a memory only. It is many years since tigers have been so numerous as they now are: in fact a day never goes past without hearing about some village pig sty being cleaned out. Only a few days ago, I saw a couple of splendid skins being offered for sale on the Amoy Bund, at \$20 each, so if poor old countrymen, armed with prehistoric spears, can go out and make such a fine bag, a couple of good sports armed with rifles should have some luck. News came in yesterday that a large male and female, with two cubs at foot, were busy in the mountains behind Tong-An, a city about thirty miles from Amoy. Dr. H. Horne, one of our local medicos, has organized a party to go after them, and should the hunt be worked systematically a good bag should be the result. A peculiarity of the Amoy tiger is that it will hang around the same place from year to year. Therefore if one has a week to spare, and is sure he is in the vicinity of the lair, he can rely on getting a shot home. A cave high up in the mountains is the favourite resort of Mr. Stripes, and can be easily found by the horrible stench and the immense number of bones in the vicinity. It is rarely we hear of a "Man-eater"; the first and last episode of that kind was when one of our local missionaries was walking over the hills at Chan-pu, found a Chinaman's sun hat, a carrying pole with two bundles attached, an immense quantity of blood, and the signs of a severe struggle. Knowing that a number of tigers were in the

vicinity he, from these signs, made sure that one of them had been eating Chinamen.

Authentic cases are known where full grown tigers have come down from their mountain strongholds, entered the outskirts of the up-country cities, and made off with fresh pork. An incident of their daring happened at the beginning of the year. An old farmer had taken his cow and calf to graze on the side of Lam Tai Boo mountain, and while he was having his afternoon smoke, a large tiger suddenly made off with the calf. He pursued for a short distance, but finding that he could not keep up, he hastily tied his cow to a rock and made off poste-haste to the village for help. Upon returning with half the village at his heels, he found his cow dead, with her throat torn open. The tiger shot by Colonel Fitton got a share of the blame for this outrage.

Considering the small expense incurred in this grand sport, it is a surprise to many local residents that so few Hongkong sports come along to have a "go" at the beasts. Some of our old hands state that it is impossible to get at a tiger without employing the inhabitants of a whole village to act as beaters. This is a great mistake, as all one has to do is to get a good trustworthy guide, promise him a certain sum if he takes you to a genuine lair and if no tiger turns up he forfeits all claim to the promised reward.

FORMOSA.

The *Japan Mail* writes:—Great strides have certainly been made in the pacification of Formosa, but with regard to a large part of island, it is evident that the "pacification" of the inhabitants is a term for which we should be more correct in writing "extermination." The *Hochi Shimbun* has just published a series of seven articles on this subject, and the gist of them may be given here without any fear of wearying our readers. Not more than two-fifths of the island have been brought completely under civilized sway. This portion consists of the extreme north and south, and a belt comprised between the west coast and a high range of hills that form the backbone of the island. By the Japanese the pacified aborigines are called *Jukubau* and those that still remain implacable are known as *Seiban*. The former are partly Chinese by birth. They sided with the Chinese against the Japanese at the outset, and naturally with the Chinese they afterwards bowed to the situation. Accurately subdivided there are said to be twenty races of the *Seiban*, but broadly speaking there are only eight. They occupy the mountainous and thickly wooded strip of territory comprised between the east coast and the median line of mountains. But they are not equally distributed throughout this strip. In the southern half many have become pacified, whereas in the northern all are as savage as ever. It is in this northern half that the "head-hunters" have their habitat. So far as can be ascertained, they were not originally savages. Their ferocious disposition was developed gradually under the pressure of Chinese raids. Driven by the Chinese from the plain country on the west and pursued again and again into their refuges among the hills, they became veritable *Ishmaelites*, and there grew up in their bosoms a thirst for vengeance which they lose no opportunity of slaking. There are 15,000 of these aborigines in the south-east half of the island's eastern zone and 4,000 in the northern half. All attempts to pacify them having failed, the Japanese have been obliged to resort to a system which may be described as one of gradual invasion. The operation partakes in some respects of the nature of hunting wild beasts. The *Seiban* utilize the mountains, the ravines, the river-beds and the rocks, just as hunted beasts would use them, and in all essential respects they are hunted beasts, the hunters being a long line of armed detachments which push gradually eastward into the unpacified zone. These detachments are called *Aiya* (village braves) their units—*Aitai* or village youths—being Chinamen. To each *Aiya* there is an assistant-constable (native) who acts as corporal, there is a Japanese constable who discharges the function of sergeant, and there is a police-sergeant who fills the post of officer.

The total strength of these invading corps is 10,000, namely, 3,300 Japanese police-sergeants and constables; 8,500 native assistant constables, and 4,100 native privates. They carry the arms of soldiers but are under the ultimate control of the civil administration. The extent of front along which they operate is about 500 miles, so that there are some 20 men per mile. We gather that the whole front of the unpacified zone—in other words, the length of the mountain range forming the backbone of the island—is a thousand miles, but in the southern half of it measures of conciliation alone are relied on, and the iron line of troops operating steadily eastward advances from the border of the northern section only. The invading bodies take care to keep in touch of each other constantly, but to do so does not appear to be always possible, for news occasionally arrives of successful attacks organized by the savages against isolated bands. The system seems, however, to be as nearly perfect as human ingenuity can make it, and there can be no question that the zone of resistance is being gradually and steadily narrowed. Force alone is not relied on. The two great necessities of the *Seiban*, salt and ammunition, are carefully excluded by the Japanese. It is not possible, however, to make this exclusion radical. Small quantities of the contraband articles are supplied by Chinese boats visiting the eastern coast and by the *Jukuban* in the south. Still the strictness of the blockade has raised the price of salt to 1½ yen per *sho* and that of 3 cartridges to 1 yen. Application was made to the naval authorities to prevent smuggling over-sea, but they declined, and small steamers are now to be armed for the service. Thus the doom of these misguided people creeps day by day, and ultimately the 7,500 square miles occupied by them will pass into Japanese hands. But the operation is not without loss as the following table shows:—

LOSSES OF GORDON CORPS.			
	Killed.	Wounded.	Total.
1902	17	1	18
1903	30	24	54
1904	105	43	148
Totals	152	68	220

The *Hechi* justly observes that there are no Orders of the Golden Kite or *Shokonsha* festivals for the men who die in this service. They go down to the grave unwept, unhonoured and unsung.

DEPARTURE OF AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN CONSUL.

MR. N. POST'S SUCCESSOR.

Mr. Nicholas Post, who has been the popular Consul for Austria-Hungary at Hongkong for nearly a decade, is going home on June 5th via America, on short leave. He will then take up his new appointment as Consul General at Rio in Brazil. Mrs. Post accompanies her husband. There are many friends to wish them a pleasant holiday and a prosperous career in Brazil.

Mr. Post's successor comes to Hongkong at the end of this month. He is Mr. B. Szentirmai von Drastó, second vice-consul at Shanghai.

THE "ROON" ASHORE.

A Kobe telegram to the *Daily Press*, dated May 18th, said: "The N.D.L. liner *Roon* ran on rocks near Moji on Wednesday night.

The passengers have been taken off the ship. The bows have been seriously damaged; salvage operations are now in progress."

Messrs. Melchers and Co. received a cablegram on Saturday morning stating that the *Roon* was still fast on the rocks, but that the Imperial cruiser *Hansa* had left Nagasaki to assist in towing her off. The passengers had been safely landed, but the crew remained on board, and the chance of saving the steamer depended almost entirely on the weather.

The N. D. L. s.s. *Roon* was successfully refloated at six o'clock p.m. on May 19th; and subsequently reached Nagasaki safely, escorted by H.M.S. *Hansa*.

JAPANESE SCHOOL TEACHERS IN CONFERENCE.

PURE ETHICS AND EDUCATION.

The teachers employed in elementary schools throughout the country are now sitting in conference in Tokyo. On May 7th Mr. Makino, Minister for Education, addressed the conference, and said that the opinion was held that the victory of Japan in the war was principally due to education. In regard to this contention, continued Mr. Makino, he had recently learned from a member of the General Staff that all men in the ranks thoroughly understood the commands of their officers, and this enabled the commands of Marshal Oyama to be carried out precisely, without any mistake. This state of things was strong evidence of the general dissemination of education among the Japanese. They were very happy to have the Imperial Edict on education, which most distinctly and clearly laid down the code of ethics to be followed by the people. In Europe and America ethics were divided into different schools, but in Japan the duties of individuals towards their country and their position in society were distinctly defined in the Imperial Edict. While in Europe he had heard an educationist contend that the European system of ethics conducted immensely to the advance of civilisation in Europe, but their teaching chiefly referred to personal matters and not to the duty of the people to the State. This, continued Mr. Makino, was a serious defect. The Japanese teaching of ethics was brought into the fullest play during two years of war, and this might form the subject of serious study by Europeans. The Minister proceeds:—

"Lately the principle of ethics independent of religious teaching has attracted attention in Europe and America. Moral teaching based on religious creeds is harmful to education. An international conference on ethics is to be held in London in September next, attended by those advocating common ethics independent of religion. Members of this school admire the Japanese system as the best, without equal. If you succeed in carrying out into practice these excellent moral teachings, there can be no doubt of the prosperity of the Empire—that it will grow in magnitude, and all we aim at in life will be attained."

A COREAN POSTMASTER.

A correspondent of a Seoul journal gives the following amusing little sketch of a village post office in Corea:—

For the Postmaster's sake we will not state whence we write. Your correspondent has posted letters several times from this place and so he has no doubt in recommending the experience as a pleasure. If, Mr. Editor, you will lend me your Kodak the next time I come this way, I will take a snap-shot of the Post Office for you. It is up a back alley behind the Court-House, it has a humble door, and a brushwood fence around it with a place where a gate ought to be. The building itself leaves one in doubt whether it will stand the next storm. The front-door is four feet two inches high, while the interior measures about six and a half feet square; its walls are begrimed with smoke and no light is admitted except through the door. One has learned to reverence a head that bears the snow of many winters, so seeing an aged man squatting on the floor I bowed respectfully, apologised for my intrusion and asked to be directed to the Post Office. He drew a deep breath of surprise and after a pause of about two minutes replied: "This is the Post Office." "Kindly give me a three cent stamp" asked I, but, "where is your letter" asked he "I haven't written it yet and for the present only want a stamp." The old man shook his head and was puzzled. Seeing no way out of the difficulty he said "I must see your letter before I know whether a three cent stamp will do." It took much patience, many words and above fifteen minutes to get the stamp. Recent audience with the Empress Dowager of China Her Majesty took occasion to express to Sir Robert her regret that certain measures of reform advocated by him more than thirty years ago had not been carried out by the Government of China.

ALLEGED BRITISH MISTAKES AT BRUNEI.

We have reported from time to time on Brunei affairs, since it came under a British Resident, and readers may remember a riot that took place a few weeks ago. Upon this some light is thrown by a letter to the *Straits Times*, which says:—"Before all this occurred, I had written to the Resident, warning him of the unrest likely to be caused by the implanting of Customs duties on foodstuffs, amongst others 10 cents per bunch of pineapples (sold formerly for 20), 1 cent on coconuts worth 2 each, 10 cents per bottle on coconut oil for culinary purposes (worth in Labuan 20/22 cents a bottle) or, say, 5) per cent. ad valorem. Now, you must understand, Brunei neither produces coconuts nor pineapples except in very insignificant quantities. The whole town of Brunei—the Venice of the East—is built over water; people can only get from house to house by sampan. Consequently, they have no land on which to grow things. The land is nearly all held by the Sultan and the Pengerans of Royal birth, yet the Resident states he placed these protective duties to encourage the people to grow their own coconuts and pineapples, without giving them land to grow them, and doubtless forgetting that it takes seven years for a coconut to bear fruit!!!

This outdoes Chamberlainism. To make matters worse; he has placed a tax on all sampans. To those engaged in trading the policy is sound enough, but here you are taxing people to get from one house to another. The Chinese have large house boats all covered in, in which they have sufficient goods to stock any ordinary Chinese shop. These are the principal *kedies*, and go from one part of the town to another when markets are held one different days of the week. The tax on these is not in proportion to the small sampans. As I have heard different rates from different people, I do not give them.

Duties carefully considered and equitably adjusted must, no doubt, be collected in Brunei in place of the former monopolies, but they must be introduced with tact and their object and reason carefully explained to the people, not blunderingly and imperiously crammed down the throats of a race who have not yet had experience of European methods of government. Brunei people are suspicious of Europeans and justly so, considering how they have been shamelessly exploited and deceived in the past by unscrupulous concession hunters. The British Government know this, or ought to have known it, and it was therefore incumbent on them to see their representative advance his changes with discretion and without haste.

Formerly there was no Custom House in Brunei, but monopolies on almost everything were farmed out, mainly to Chinese, who have reaped a rich harvest for years past. The Government are very properly now redeeming these monopolies and substituting customs duties, but they have gone further and taxed fresh food stuffs, which is a grave mistake.

The principal monopolist in Brunei, a Chinaman, has already been bought out; it is said, for \$47,000—an extraordinarily liberal and generous gift. Nobody was more surprised than the Chinaman himself, who would have been liberally dealt with for one-tenth of this amount. The Chinaman has held these monopolies for a merely nominal sum from the old Sultan whom he has plucked for years past. A Chinaman, so the story goes, which you may believe or not believe as you please, was wont to advance, for instance, \$5,000, to the Sultan today on the security of his cession money payable by Sarawak and British North Borneo Company, and in six months time, when the half-yearly instalment was due, recover \$100,000. A very nice business. This has been going on for years and none of our Consuls have protected the Sultan. Between this Chinaman and a member of another nationality all the cession money due to the Sultan was thus dealt with.

The coconut-oil monopolist, after being so liberally dealt with, must needs be further assisted by, as some think, arbitrary ways to recover his \$4, and bring all this trouble on the Resident's shoulders. The \$4 debt was not incurred during the Resident's government, so what business had he therefore to act as he did

to assist an alien Chinaman to recover a debt and such a paltry sum? The Chinaman's remedy was to apply to the Sultan. As you may imagine very bad blood has been created in Brunei, and the Resident may find great difficulty in managing the place; in fact, he cannot run both Labuan and Brunei; it is bound to end in fiasco.

The objectionable duties (on fresh fruit, etc.) have now been taken off.

MAUDLIN SENTIMENT.

The *Peking and Tientsin Times* thus deals with the questions that Mr. H. H. Marks asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs (whether his attention had been called to the report of the superintendent of police of Hankow to the British Municipal Council of Hankow for the year ending Dec. 31, 1905, from which it appears that during the year 514 persons charged with various offences were flogged with bamboos, and 76 persons tortured with the cangue; whether such punishments were allowed by the British Consulate in concessions in China; and what steps, if any, His Majesty's Government intended to take for the purpose of stopping them).

Bambooning is by no means a punishment which we uphold, but the lamentable ignorance displayed in the above enquiry is to our thinking of far greater consequence to the credit of the nation than the "awful barbarities" which are supposed to have called it forth; and it is, moreover, inexcusable ignorance, as there are sufficient people of prominence now at home for the conditions under which municipal affairs in the ports are conducted to have been easily ascertained, and so have saved the time of the House and the patience of many thousands of readers. Even the nature of the cangue is clearly misunderstood, or the word "torture" would not be applied, as like the stocks of old the main object of the instrument is its public ignominy, though in Chinese hands it has been known to be converted into an instrument of torture no doubt, as any other simple instrument may be when ingenuity turns its attention that way. The fact is the folks at home are getting so sentimental and tender-hearted we shall have the treadmill and even oakum-picking abolished soon as barbarism, and a few other premiums introduced on crime and rascality, already increasing at an appalling rate. The Liberals with their anti-slavery cry have started a new craze which may have very serious results.

CHINESE "HOWLERS."

From the *Yellow Dragon* we quote the following quaint memoranda by Chinese pupils at Queen's College, Hongkong:—

"I am also to tell you that the Governor of H.K. has reached our college to examine all of us and two gentlemen accompanied him. This Governor is very young and strong.

"But in this year the Governor wrote a new book named Hygien and ordered all the school-boys of this colony to learn this book by hard.

"This is the subject to which I have paid, pay and shall pay my greatest attention.

"In the year 1905 H. E. the Governor came to this college and gave us a lot of prizes and golden rules. When he said the more we learn the better we get I thereby make up my mind and try to get the first seat.

"The new subjects introduced into Queen's College are by the order of His Excellency Sir Nathan Mathew after his arrival at Hongkong. He is an excellent man and loves people of all classes to have full of knowledge and good education.

"About a fortnight ago, some peculiar thing brought to this college by Bainsborough who gave out the pictures saying about the country-men who have never been known to us. The men that I spoke of have no clothes or trousers to put on and devour or kill each other. Greatly we hope that we will never go to such place."

"A great beneficial strange subject to me is that an Englishman came to the college and gave a disposal of delivering on the southern seas and the various kinds of beautiful girls."

SHANGHAI FRENCH CONCESSION.

REMARKABLE CENSUS FIGURES.

A bulky volume, the statement of the Municipal Council of Administration in the French Concession at Shanghai for 1905 is not without interest, showing as it does the several important undertakings which the authorities have had in hand during the year. The tramway system, electric lighting, and the raising of loans have been the principal subjects discussed at the meetings, while the reports of the various services are by no means unattractive.

Looking at the budget for 1905, we notice that of the total receipts which come under budget ordinaire Tls. 158,221.46 were derived from local duties and customs, Tls. 103,497.42 from licences, Tls. 33,212.94 from taxes, Tls. 79,717 from divers receipts, Tls. 16,062.64 from accidental receipts, Tls. 885.29 from interest, Tls. 18,432.79 from electric light, Tls. 32,637.68 from distribution of water, and Tls. 13,773.51 from abattoirs. On the other side of the account the secretariat absorbed Tls. 30,768.08 for divers services, including light, water, telephones, bells and clocks, medical service, semaphore, allocations and donations miscellaneous expenses, volunteers and defence of the concession (Tls. 2,378.93) and loans Tls. 120,715.09, garde municipale Tls. 90,140.18 public works Tls. 75,294.93, electric light Tls. 11,821.28, water Tls. 652.37, and abattoirs Tls. 8,678.54.

The census, taken in the French concession on 14th October, 1905, provides some interesting figures of the total foreign population of 831, there were 463 males and 368 females, 47 of the former being under 15 years and 221 of the latter. A remarkable disparity is here revealed, the girls being about five times more numerous than the boys, a circumstance which is indeed remarkable in China. Moreover, it shows that the male adults are much more numerous than the females, there being 416 of the one to 147 of the other. In this total of 831 are only found 274 French, the next highest in point of number being the British with 109, followed by 73 Japanese, 61 Russians, 51 Portuguese, 47 Germans, 30 Eurasians, 23 Filipinos, 20 Parsees, 21 Americans, 15 Belgians, 14 Italians, 12 Swiss, 7 Greeks, 5 each Spaniards, Austrians, and Dutch, 3 Danes, 2 each Turks and Argentines, and 1 each Norwegian, Armenian, and Chilian. There were 84,791 resident Chinese, of whom 1,277 male and 191 female were in the service of Europeans. This, with a floating population of 4,340 and 7,000 on voyage, gives a grand total of 96,132 Chinese.

INTERNATIONAL BANKING CORPORATION.

We have been favoured with the following report, dated New York, April 9th, and the Corporation's seventh semi-annual statement, that of December 30, 1905, which follows it:—

The uncertainty attending the final stages of the Russo-Japanese war and the unsettled currency condition in the Straits Settlements, made it advisable for us to carry on our Oriental business with extreme caution, and the branches were therefore obliged somewhat to curtail their transactions with a corresponding decrease of profit, but meanwhile we have been steadily building up our resources at the various points and are now established in the Philippines, Hongkong, Shanghai, Japan and the Straits Settlements. The corporation has now no office which does not either earn on its own account a fair profit or otherwise render service indispensable to the Corporation as a whole. The half-year under review is the first for which this statement could be made.

Our temporary premises in China and Japan having become too small for the volume of our business, we were obliged to obtain larger and more suitable offices in Hongkong, and in the course of the next few months our Yokohama Branch will be moved into a floor secured in a building now nearing completion. We are also in treaty for offices in a new building in Shanghai, where we have outgrown our present premises.

The building, Sixty Wall Street, in which your Corporation is interested, was opened less than a year ago and is well occupied, its tenants

being drawn mainly from the professions of law and engineering. The Wall Street Station of the New York Post Office occupies the ground floor, and several large business concerns have leased offices in the upper floors. From the first of May the building will earn a net income over all charges and may be expected, in addition to providing good quarters for the Corporation, to show a fair profit on your investment during the present year.

The business of the International Bank of New York has increased and in the latter part of 1905 its capital was raised from \$1,000,000 to \$500,000, the new stock being taken by your corporation. It is earning a profit and will begin paying dividends in the present year.

The Board express their acknowledgment to the officers and employees for their fidelity and efficiency during the year.

Very respectfully,

THOMAS H. HUBBARD,
President.

ASSETS.	
Demand Loans and Advances	\$1,930,135.21
Time Loans	1,019,560.80
Bonds and Stocks	4,482,101.15
Commercial Credits	3,898,655.98
Bills Discounted	6,023,257.16
Furniture and Fixtures (Less 10 per cent. Depreciation semi-annually)	81,480.03
Bullion and Remittances in transit	8,945,775.53
Due from Banks and Correspondents	449,314.06
Cash on hand and in Local Depositories	4,674,189.87
	\$34,004,779.49

LIABILITIES.	
Capital	\$3,250,000.00
Surplus	3,250,000.00
Profit and Loss	143,686.90
Dividend Payable April 10, 1906	65,000.00
Acceptances, Bills and Drafts on and Payable by Branches and Correspondents, and against Bills Receivable or Bullion in transit	13,061,754.21
Due Banks and Bankers	1,944,315.28
Deposits, Time	3,214,336.92
Deposits, Demand	9,493,616.00
	\$34,004,779.49

THE LATE SIR GEORGE O'BRIEN.

A letter from the London correspondent of the *Daily Press* on May 25 contained the following reference:—The death has been announced since I last wrote of Sir G. T. M. O'Brien, at one time Colonial Secretary at Hongkong. Sir George was one of the ablest officials that ever served in the Colony. Like most men of outstanding ability, he was never popular, and his ruthless abstention from the social inanities of the place did not add to his popularity. It may be that ill-health was the chief reason why he preferred the society of his sister to that of the residents, but, whatever the cause, when he left for home there was not much regret expressed. One thing the community had to thank him for was the enlivenment of the debates—if debates they can be called—in the Legislative Council. A reference to your files at the latter end of 1892 will bear out the truth of my statements. At that time the Colony was recovering but slowly from the spell of over-speculation which ruined so many of us, and when on the top of this came the first great slump in silver it looked as if the Colony would be submerged by financial disaster. When the Government proposed to revise official salaries with a view to their increase, there was, of course, much indignation. The Unofficials spoke in terms of praise of the Officials, but pleaded that the moment was inopportune for an increase of salaries. Then it was that Sir George quoted the well-known couplet—

"It's all very well to dissemble your love,
But why do you kick me downstairs?"

The one mistake of his Hongkong career was the forcing through the Council of the last silver loan. If I am not mistaken he was one of the few who asserted that the dollar would never go below two shillings and sixpence. He lived long enough to see the falsity of his prophecy.

Residents of Hongkong are so familiar with fevers, headaches, and so on, that many of them have acquired the habit of self-doctoring and drug taking. Quinine and phenacetin are played with as sulphur and treacle used to be at home. It is not the wisest thing to do. On Thursday a lady at one of the hotels nearly died of phenacetin poisoning.

A QUESTION OF CUSTOMS DUES.

At different dates, the following three interesting letters appeared in the *North-China Daily News* :—

Sir,—On the 30th of April, 1906, application for re-export was presented to the Customs at Shanghai on some foreign-made goods "duty paid" for Tsingtao. At the same time an invoice showing nature and value of goods was shown to the Customs.

On this re-export application an officer at the Memo-desk marked "to pay" and passed on the application. By this, it was supposed, that the permit for re-export was allowed, but it would be treated as fresh import at the port of arrival where duty may or may not be levied.

However, the goods went forward per *Gouverneur Jaeschke* and now, the 14th May, a reply has been received from the consignees that they had to pay a deposit of duty of \$2.85 on a value of goods costing \$39.

Had the Custom House shown any valid reason for collecting this additional import, it could be added to the cost, but certainly the Custom House had not a particle of right to collect this duty from anybody at all, if they acted up to the Treaty.

The Custom House fine heavily if they catch a wrong done by an applicant, but what about this additional duty? Where is the authority for them to collect?

The officer asked the applicant "Have you got a pass?" Reply, "No."

How could a pass be produced when duty-paid imports have been opened and partly sold locally and partly sold to an outport?

Large stores like Hall and Holtz, Lane and Crawford, Whiteaway Laidlaw, and a host of private importers always pay import duty at the time goods are imported, and if a few of these articles are shipped to outports should the Custom House charge another duty on already duty-paid goods?

Will any of your numerous readers throw any light on this question?

It is intended to collect all the information possible with a view of addressing the higher authorities to put a stop to this procedure.

It is not only \$2.85, which could be made a present to the Customs, but it is the principle and the right to collect which one must contend against.

I am, etc.,

SHIPPER.

Sir,—I am glad to see that "Shipper" takes up this question, and I hope that many more interested parties will make it worth their while to give attention to it.

I have very often an opportunity of shipping woollens for exclusive foreign use to outports; these goods come to Shanghai packed several pieces in a case, and I distribute them according to the orders I get; part of them are sold here, and other parts to various outports. It goes without saying that import duty is paid on them in Shanghai, and I am careful to get a transit pass. Now, on shipping, I also present the transit pass, but on the goods' arrival at their destination, my constituents there have to pay again Customs duty. Once I had the opportunity of speaking to a high Customs authority about this matter, and I have been told that "this is the law". In former times woollens for foreign use paid no duty at all, but since we have to pay duty on goods for foreign consumption, I see no reason why we should pay twice, even when the original package has to be broken into and parts of it distributed in various Chinese Treaty Ports.

I thought that by the provisions of the Mackay Treaty foreign importers have to pay an increased rate of duty on imports so as to allow them free and unhampered trading from one Treaty Port, where Customs duty has been paid once, to any other port in the Chinese Empire, but as such does not seem to be the case at present, it will be very interesting to see what those interested in free trading in China have to say about this very important question. Thanking you in anticipation for inserting this, and enclosing my card,

I am, etc.,

TRADER.

Sir,—Will you kindly allow me to inform your correspondents under this heading that the "Household Goods" pass was designed to meet just the contingency they complain of.

The Customs will not attempt to collect duty again on any goods shipped under household goods pass, which latter can be obtained free.

I am, etc.,

SAMOTH.

EXPERIENCES IN SAN FRANCISCO.

INTERVIEWS ON BOARD THE "MONGOLIA."

"You have just come from San Francisco?"

"Yes," was the laconic reply given by one of the officers on the s.s. "Mongolia" on May 27 at the opening of the conversation between him and a representative of the *Daily Press*. As is perhaps known, that vessel is the first to reach Hongkong from the Californian capital since the terrible disaster which befel the city last month.

"What was the town like?"

"Oh, a barren, burnt wreck, only a remnant of what it once was."

"You were there at the time of the earthquake?"

"Yes, but I didn't take much notice of it. You see, I was asleep at the time. It was about five o'clock in the morning. I was awakened by something, and when I asked what was the matter they told me it was an earthquake. I turned over and went to sleep again. When I rose to go on duty at eight o'clock I was surprised to see clouds of smoke coming from the city and big buildings ablaze. A little later I had occasion to go ashore to get some things left in a hotel in the centre of the city, but I soon realised that I could not go by the ordinary routes, as buildings had collapsed and streets were a mass of fire from end to end. I got round by the wharves and many of these were crumpled up. However, I got to the hotel and procured a few of the things that had been left, but as messengers wanted \$20 to go to the ship I had to leave most of the things I had intended to take away."

"\$20?—That was a big price."

"Yes, but they could command any money at that time. You can understand the difficulties of going through the city when I tell you that it took me over five hours to get back to the ship. It was an awful time. People were running about quite crazy, though being on the ship most of the time I did not see the worst sights. We took about three hundred homeless people, mostly employees of the Company, on board, fed and sheltered them for five days."

"Other ships would do the same, I suppose?"

"Yes, I saw a good many people rush from the city on board the vessels lying at the wharves. Most of the vessels afterwards anchored a little from the shore."

"Why?"

"Well, it was safer. Some of the ships at the wharves were turned over by the earthquake."

"And how did the townspeople who escaped fare?"

"At first they could not get food for love nor money, but after a day or two relief trains came through from the east and the south. The Government established relief camps, supplying the people with tents and provisions. A family of six would get two tents, while everybody had to line up at the stores where the food was dealt out to them."

"The buildings in Frisco were not very high, that is for an American city?"

"No, they were not so high as you would find back east. The average was about four or five storeys. The high buildings such as the Call office and others were what you would call show buildings. I'll tell you a curious thing that happened at one of the hotels. The first three storeys collapsed, killing about 75 people, but the fourth storey slid right out on the street and the people were able to climb out by the windows. Yes, you would see buildings knocked into the most fantastic shapes. For instance, I noticed one hotel where the first two storeys were slanting at an obtuse angle from the ground and the story above sloped from the second storey at an acute angle. When I came along I noticed the railroad track standing up in the air and twisted in the most extraordinary manner."

"What about the looting that was said to have taken place?"

"That was disgraceful. As you know, martial law had to be proclaimed and there were many curious experiences in consequence."

Supposing you were walking along the street, you might happen to come to a place where a building had collapsed and the bricks had fallen into the street. A soldier would stop you and order you to throw the bricks into the ruins. And you had to do it. No use attempting to argue with a man standing over you with a loaded gun. Why, two of our officers were detained for hours one day, having been stopped like that and compelled to shift bricks. Another of our men had gone with his wife up into the country and was sleeping in the open air. He was awakened some time in the morning by a prod in the ribs and on opening his eyes looked up into the muzzle of a gun, behind which was a soldier, who said "Get up." "All right," was the response, "wait a minute." "No, can't wait any minutes. Must get up now. I want you." So without further discussion the man rose and followed the soldier down the hill. At the foot he was given a belt and a revolver and told to keep watch at that particular place and if anybody came along to take them up to the officer on duty on the hill. He did so and commandeered a number for service of a similar nature. Of course many people didn't like it. Still it mattered not what their rank or position was, they were all pressed into the service. I have mentioned already that the Government introduced relief measures. They accommodated the people in camps. At one place it was necessary to dig a trench and the soldiers brought along a number of Japanese and lined them up, preparatory to being instructed as to what they were to do. One Japanese made a great fuss over it. He was not going to do any spade work, but one of the soldiers pricked him in the rear and he was glad to fall in with the others. After he had been digging some time he came out of the trench and pulling a notebook from his pocket wrote something thereon, asking that the message might be conveyed to the Japanese Consul. This was done and that official arrived in response. When he saw the gentleman who had protested so much, he informed the soldiers that he was a most influential man and very wealthy. But this did not appeal to the soldier, who asked the Consul if he had finished his speech; and on receiving an answer in the affirmative told him to get down into the trench with the others. That shows you that everybody was treated alike.

"There were a good many criminals loose?"

"Yes. The gaol was destroyed and a lot of crooks got free. They were dealt with very severely. If anybody was caught stealing they were shot on the spot without warning. The soldiers would ask you three times to work and then if you refused you would be shot. But with crooks it was different. I saw one man who had been shot at an automobile works. They had pinned on to his clothing a paper with the words "Crooks, take notice. Thieves will be shot." That was allowed to lie on the streets for about four days, until the body was black."

"Was the fire extinguished by the time you left?"

"Yes, but many of the buildings which had collapsed could not be touched. The bricks were so hot that the place was like an oven. For instance, the vaults of the banks where they had all their money could not be touched for weeks until the place had properly cooled and the gases which had accumulated had escaped. I should have told you of one experience on the night of the earthquake. I went ashore and went up to a saloon. The fellow behind the bar was giving out beer, but I wanted whisky and asked him for some. He replied "Come round and help yourself. This isn't my saloon. I don't know whose it is; take what you want." I did, and there were scores of other people doing the same."

"What are the Government doing at present?"

"They are putting up temporary structures of corrugated iron. The people will be temporarily accommodated in these and before the summer is over better dwellings should be ready for them."

M. Bapa, who succeeds M. Dubail in charge of the French Legation at Peking arrived at Shanghai last week and received the local gentlemen in charge of affairs.

CORRESPONDENCE.

REGISTRATION OF PARTNERSHIPS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 21st May.

SIR,—I have read with interest your report of the discussion at the last meeting of the Legislative Council upon the subject of the registration of partnerships.

I have long thought that legislation upon the lines proposed by the Hon. Mr. Pollock, namely, registration of partnerships with limited liability, is much more likely to be successful than compulsory registration of firms such as was formerly proposed.

The power of limiting their liability will be an inducement to the Chinese to register and will remove the objection which they would otherwise have to registration; and the fact that the proposed legislation will bring our law more or less into accord with Chinese law on the subject, will predispose the Chinese to look favourably upon the matter, and to assist in giving effect to any law which may be passed on the subject.

It is interesting to note that legislation, such as is now suggested, was proposed in England so far back as the year 1881, and a bill for that purpose was actually introduced, passed through Committee and read a second time in the House of Commons.

The bill in question was the bill for the Partnership Act, which ten years later, after various alterations, during which the clauses as to limited partnerships were struck out, became law under the title of the Partnership Act 1890, and was incorporated into the law of this Colony as the Partnership Ordinance 1897.

The bill was drafted by Sir Frederick Pollock, and he states that the clauses as to limited partnership were framed by him after comparison of the statutes of Massachusetts, New York, and other American States on the subject of special or limited partnerships, and the provisions of the French and German Commercial Codes as to partnerships, *en Commandite*.

The main features of the scheme were as follows:—

1. A limited partner was one whose liability for the debts of the firm was limited to the amount which he had contributed or agreed to contribute to the capital of the partnership.

[Under this clause the liability of a limited partner would resemble that of a shareholder in a limited company, and in this respect the scheme differed from the Chinese law on the subject.]

2. A limited partnership must contain one or more general partners whose liability was unlimited, and must be registered.

3. Without registration there was no limitation of liability.

4. A limited partner had no right to take part in the management of the partnership business and no authority to bind the firm.

5. A limited partnership was to be entered into for a fixed term and might not be dissolved before the expiration of that term unless all the partnership debts were paid.

6. The general partners only were liable to be made bankrupt in respect of the firm's debts.

7. The statement for registration had to contain the names and addresses of each partner, and the sum to be contributed by each limited partner, and whether to be paid in cash or otherwise.

Under this scheme there would be no necessity for any firm to register unless they thought fit but without registration they would not obtain the benefit of limited liability.

The question will require a great deal of consideration, and a comparison of the bill above mentioned might be useful in drafting the Ordinance proposed to be introduced—Yours faithfully,

JOHN HASTINGS.

The *Nanfangpao* of May 18th states that the British Charge d'Affaires has informed the Waiwpu that British engineers are coming to China to begin the survey of the railway from Shantung to Chinkiang, and that Commissioner Lockhart of Weihaiwei has been appointed to proceed to Chinan to arrange with the Shantung Governor regarding the construction of the line.

A MARRIAGE PROPOSAL.

PROSPECTIVE SON-IN-LAW'S LETTER.

The following is an exact copy, from an Indian paper, of a letter signed "A Dutiful Son-in-law," received by a Hindu father asking for the hand of his daughter:—

Dear Sir,—It is with a flattering penmanship that I write to have communication with you about the prospective condition of your damsel offspring. For some remote time to past, a secret passion has firing my bosom internally with loving for your daughter. I have navigated every channel in the magnitude of my extensive jurisdiction to cruelly smother the growing love-knot that is being constructed in my within side, but the humid lamp of affection trimmed by Cupid's productive hand still nourishes my love-sickened heart. Needless would it be for me to numerically extemporize the great conflagration that has been generated in my head and heart. During the region of rightness my intellectual cranium has been entangled in thoughtful attitude after my beloved consort; nocturnal slumberlessness has been the infirmity which has besieged my now degenerate constitution. My educational capabilities have abandoned me, and here I now cling to those lovely long tresses of your much covered daughter like a marine ship wrecked on the rock of love. As to my scholastic calibre, I was recently ejected from Calcutta University, I am now masticating and will make a move as soon as I perceive of life, a little laxative. I am of a lofty and original lineage and of independent incomes and hoping that having debate this proposition to your pregnant mind, you will concordantly corroborate in espousing your female progeny to my tender bosom and thereby acquire me into your family circle.

THE PEKING POLICE.

CHINESE OR JAPANESE CONTROL.

According to a Tokyo dispatch, the Chinese Government appears to stand very firm to its decision to recover the control of the police administration in Peking, which is at present entrusted to the Japanese authorities. The negotiations now proceeding and carried on by Mr. Uchida, Japanese Minister in Peking, for the renewal of the contract have little prospect of success, says the *Japan Chronicle*.

From bitter experience of the outbreak of the Boxer disturbance, continues the dispatch, the Powers place no confidence whatever in the Chinese police administration, and feel more confidence when the duty is entrusted to the Japanese, having raised no objection whatever to the arrangement. If the Chinese Government determines to discontinue the present system, the Powers will certainly not remain passive, and the administration of the Peking police will undoubtedly be undertaken by the joint action of the Powers. In that event the Chinese Government will have to face far more difficulties than now arise in entrusting the administration to the Japanese Government. When these circumstances are known, it is believed that the Chinese Government will yield to the Japanese demand for a renewal of the present arrangement.

CHINESE RAILWAY ENTERPRISE.

According to the *Nanfangpao* of May 19th the officials and gentry of Shansi have decided that the first line of railway to be built by them shall run from Taiyuanfu to Pingyao, a distance of 300 odd li. They have also received the consent of the Shantung and decided to build lines from Tatungfu to Kalgan, via Shioopingfu, Kueihuaohong, and Shuyuanohong; from Fuchou to Tungkuan, passing over the Yellow River; and from Pingyang to Tsechou, connecting with the Tsokou and Tsechou Railway. They are also raising capital to build a railway from Taiyuanfu a point on the Peking-Kalgan Railway, through Hsuanhuaohong and Sungohikuan. The Kaifeng-Chengchow line, 140 li in length, is completed but for the laying of the rails and is expected to be entirely completed and in running order during the coming 5th moon. A Chinese chief engineer has been appointed for the Hangchow-Soochow Railway and capital

is being collected by the gentry and people of Chékiang province. The first line will run from Kungshun Bridge, near Kiangkan, a distance of 45 li along the Chientang River, whence it will be pushed on to Kashing and Soochow. The Governor of Shantung has memorialised the Throne that the concession granted to Germany for the Chinanfu-Chingting Railway has been redeemed and preparations for the construction of this line are progressing. The necessary funds have been raised for the construction of a railway from Tsitsihar to Aigun and work will be undertaken at once. The sanction of the Shantung has been obtained for the construction of a railway line from Tihua, capital of Chinese Turkestan, to Kashgar, in Mongolia, partly for commercial purposes and partly to forestall a possible design on the part of Russia to construct such a line.

A STRANGE TRAGEDY IN KWANG-TUNG.

It is well known that the Chinese, and especially Chinese women, are led to commit suicide by the slightest provocation, and, indeed often without any real provocation at all. The papers to hand yesterday tell us that a remarkable suicide or batch of suicides occurred a few days ago. What exactly was behind the foolish act does not seem very clear, or if it be, it is kept in the background as far as the public are concerned. At a place called Taikukwai in the Puenyue district close to Canton, no less than seven human beings tied themselves together and then flung themselves into a pond of a garden connected with the house where one of them resided. Not long since we recorded a batch of suicides of the same nature, where several young married women tied themselves together and killed themselves rather than return to their husbands, who in some cases were believed to treat their wives very cruelly. Here, however, no motive is assigned to explain the deed, and the fact that there is a man and also a very young maiden among the suicides makes the mystery all the more puzzling. At first the father of the man who took his life refused to have anything to do with the dead body, but discretion was the better part of valour and to evade a scene and much trouble he at last consented to take the corpse and give it a proper Chinese burial.—*N.C. Daily News*.

MISCELLANEOUS.

H.H. the Sultan of Brunei died on May 10th, after a few week's illness. He is succeeded by H. H. Pangeran Bandahara. The deceased was 83 years old.

The Saigon police have arrested a European for complicity with an Annamite band of robbers. He furnished the pirates with arms and co-operated with them in their expeditions. When the police approached the men they were received with shots, and a number of the band succeeded in making their escape.

In Saigon the persistent rise of the dollar is causing some dissatisfaction, and those in receipt of wages and of salaries—the French journal draws a nice distinction—complain that their remuneration is calculated on the franc basis, which does not benefit them when they have to purchase commodities with piastres. The high dollar, with its approaching stabilisation, only advantages the merchants, and acts to the prejudice of consumers. To obviate this it is suggested that those interested should amalgamate to secure that all goods should be sold on the franc basis.

The Chinese coolies employed on the railways are as a rule listless and apparently lazy. One method of escaping muscular effort in handling a shovel in track grading that seems to be very popular is a chain attachment to the shovel handle near the blade. One coolie raises the shovel and drops it into the gravel or dirt while another at the end of the chain pulls forward the shovel blade, usually only partially filled with earth, to the desired place. This device for lazy workmen appears to be a recognised feature of the prevailing method of railroad maintenance. It constituted, in fact, a toy hand-scrapper.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

Hankow, 16th May, 1906.—The first musters of the New Crop were placed on the market on the 14th instant, when 13 chops of Ningchow, and 2 chops of Nip-car-see, were shown; so far no settlements have been reported.—The following are statistics at date with corresponding circular of last season, viz., 17th May, 1905.

	1906.	1905.
HANKOW TEA.		
Settlements ...	nil.	nil.
Stock ...	27,834	nil.
Arrivals ...	27,834	nil.
KIUKIANG TEA.		
Settlement ...	nil.	nil.
Stock ...	4,072	34,416
Arrivals ...	4,072	34,416

SILK.

Messrs. A. R. Burkill & Sons' Silk Circular, dated Shanghai 12th May, 1906, states:—The home markets are unchanged. Raw Silk.—Since our last issue total purchases amount to 10 bales Gold Kiling at Tls. 525, a decline of Tls. 30 per picul on the last price quoted. Yellow silk.—The demand principally runs on Mienchews, but Mienyangs and Wangchows have also been dealt in at declining prices. Hand Filatures.—Very little doing, holders have weakened in consequence of the continued rise in exchange, most of whom do not care to carry their stocks into the new season. Steam Filatures.—No business to report. Tussock Filatures.—A small business has been done this week on the basis Tls. 367½ for Spinning (Sil 8 Cocoons. New Crop.—Reports from the producing districts are of a satisfactory nature, but it is too early to form any estimate of the crop. Mulberry leaves are good and plentiful. Waste Silks.—Nothing doing.

YOKOHAMA MARKET REPORT.

The "Yokohama Prices Current and Market Report," published by the Yokohama Foreign Board of Trade, and dated, Yokohama, May 15th, 1906, has the following:—

IMPORTS.

Yarns.—A dull market, and no transactions. Shirtings.—Nothing doing. Fancy Cottons and Woollens.—The market remains dull and uninteresting. Metals.—General tone improving, but forward enquiries not brisk. Kerosene.—Market quiet; little business doing. Sugar.—The market has remained weak, with no enquiries for Hongkong Refined. The auction of the Tokyo Refinery on the 6th inst., resulted in the sale of 49,000 bags at a further decline of 3 to 5 sen per bag. Indigo.—No change in the position to report.

EXPORTS.

Tea.—We are now well supplied with teas down to about yen 30 per picul. The market opened about on the same basis as last year, and advanced to about yen 2 above that basis. During the last few days there has been a considerable decline, owing to increasing stocks, but the prices reached are still considerably higher than those quoted on the American market. Total settlements from May 1st to May 14th amount to 18,599 piculs, against 16,253 piculs at the corresponding date last year.

GENERAL EXPORTS.

Fish Oil.—The market continues firm at about yen 5.20 per 100 kin, at which figure a few thousand cases have sold for forward delivery. Copper.—In sympathy with better reports from home, exporters show more interest. Owing to want of stocks, however, very little business is doing.

SILK REPORT.

Immediately after the issue of our last report, dated the 25th of April, our market experienced a decline of about Y. 25 for all grades, when a renewed demand from Europe caused a small temporary advance. During the last few days things have, however, again been very dull, with the result that prices at the close are weakish. Cold weather having prevailed of late, some damage is reported to the new mulberry leaves, but it is, as yet, impossible to ascertain to what extent.

WASTE SILK.

Market quiet. Little enquiry for export, recent settlements being mostly for account of native filatures. Settlements from Apr. 26th to May 10th.—600 piculs. Total settlements from July 1st to May 10th.—56,900 piculs. Stock on the 10th May is estimated at 3,500 piculs, viz.:—Noshi, 1,100 piculs; Kibizzo, 1,800 piculs; Pierced Cocoons,—piculs; Sundries, 600 piculs.

OPIMUM.

HONGKONG, 17th May, 1906.—We beg to continue our advices of the 3rd May, since when the movements in our various Opium markets have been as follows:—

	Malwa.	Patna.	Benares.	Persian.
Stocks as per circular of 3rd May, 1906	1,523	1,773	1,322	1,924
May 3rd Imports per Dongola	58			61
" 4th " " G. Apcar		375	210	
" 9th " " Laisang		358	235	
" 14th " " C. Apcar		100	15	
Less Exports to Shanghai	1,581	2,683	1,782	1,986
Less Exports to East and West Coast Ports including Local Consumption for the fortnight	63	493	225	
Estimated Stocks this day	1,417	1,407	1,000	1,928

Bengal.—Owing to the anxiety of importers to sell prices weakened and the demand has been on a small scale. Quotations are \$855 for Patna and \$78½ for Benares.

Malwa.—Small sales have been effected at the following quotations.

New	\$ 930
2 years old	950
3 " "	980
4/5 " "	1,050
Oldest	1,100

Persian.—Market quite.

HONGKONG, 26th May.

Quotations are:—Allowance net to 1 catty.	
Malwa New	\$930 to — per picul.
Malwa Old	\$980 to — do.
Malwa Older	\$1030 to — do.
Malwa Very Old	\$1080 to — do.
Persian Fine Quality	\$850 to — do.
Persian Extra Fine	\$900 to — do.
Patna New	\$852½ to — per chest.
Patna Old	\$820 to — do.
Benares New	\$785 to — do.
Benares Old	\$— to — do.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated Shanghai, 17th May, 1906, states:—The market continues without any sign of life, and nothing has happened during the interval to throw any light on the situation, which is unsatisfactory in the extreme. The retiring British minister has been interviewed and has promised to confer with the British Ambassador in Tokio on his way though, but nothing more than a diplomatic exchange of views is likely to be the result. It will require united action on the part of Great Britain, the United States and Germany, who are the most deeply interested in the Foreign trade of Manchuria, before anything can be accomplished to ameliorate the present intolerable position of affairs in that Province; and it is certainly up to the United States on this occasion to take the lead, she having run other competitors off the field with her exports of cotton goods in that direction. Some attempt, emanating from private firms here of that nationality, is to be made to elucidate the cause of this serious stoppage of the trade, but they must be properly backed up by their Government before anything satisfactory can be attained. Meanwhile the Tientsin men, seeing the discomfiture of holders in Shanghai, are playing the waiting game, and are gradually extracting from the hapless operators here supplies at practically their own prices as they require them. During the last year or two the purchasing power of the Copper Cash had apparently reached its limit, so with the depreciation of that currency, owing to the issuance of a discredited coin, the relative values of commodities have dropped. This it is that is causing the depression in the principal markets dependent on this. The home markets are maintaining their attitude of firmness, influenced more, apparently, by the state of other markets than this. Lancashire has acceded to the increased demands of her operatives, and with the enhanced prices of cotton must show a very strong front for some time to come. Cotton is now quoted 6.21d. for Mid. American, but Egyptian seems to have reached its limit and is still 10½d. The last fortnight's export figures were 17,000,000 yards of plain cottons. Yarn has fallen to prices at which it is possible for the natives to buy with more freedom, and a large business, compared to what has been current for some time past, is reported this week in Indian Spinnings. Others remain fairly steady, as well as native Cotton. The auctions continue to rule the roost in first hand goods, there not being a single sale reported otherwise! Clearances are decidedly poor, and the Foreign banks are beginning to feel the want of life in the trade and to harass holders, which naturally adds to the depression. The situation is certainly not improving.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

HANKOW, 16th May, 1906.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul.
Cowhides, Best Selected	Tls. 37.25
Do. Seconds	33.00
Buffalo Hides, Best Selected	18.00
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white color	70.00
Buffalo Horns, average 3-lbs. each	8.50
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi	11.00
White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayu	10.00
Green China Grass, Szechuen	12.75
Jute	5.60
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	9.20
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchew and/or Macheng	9.00
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyn	8.50
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu	8.75
Animal Tallow	10.00
Gallnuts, usual shape	16.30
Do. Plum do.	18.75
Tobacco, Tinchow	9.00
Do. Woungkong	10.75
Black Bristles	110.00
Feathers, Grey and/or White Duck	(nom.)
Do. Wild Duck	(nom.)
Turmeric	3.50
Sesamum Seed	3.90
Sesamum Seed Oil	8.00
Vegetable Tallow Seed Oil	(nom.)
Wood Oil	8.50
Tea Oil	10.00

Per P. & O. steamer *Delhi*, sailed on 19th May. For London:—541 packages tea (from Foochow), 2 cases china ink, 100 bales waste silk, 2 packages sundries, 128 tin ingots, 2 cases cigars, 2 cases chinaware, 9 packages private effects, &c., 5 cases feathers. For Manchester:—200 bales waste silk. For Gibraltar:—1 case curios, 1 case silks. For Lyons:—121 bales raw silk. For Marseilles:—7 cases feathers, 50 bales waste silk, 9 packages sundries.

Per P. & O. steamer *Ceylon*, sailed on 24th May. For London:—64 cases camphor, 70 cases camphor (opt. Havre or Hamburg), 1,675 bales hemp, 100 bales waste silk, 77 cases chinaware, 40 bales split bamboo, 3 cases feathers, 2 cases black-woodware, 630 boxes tea. For Antwerp:—20 bales canes. For London:—2 cases preserves, 1 case silks, 1½ rolls mats, 25 cases bristles (opt.), 5 packages sundries, 2 cases cigars, 10 packages curios, clothing, &c., 20 packages merchandise, 23 cases casia. For Liverpool:—350 bales hemp. For Manchester:—25 bales waste silk.

EXCHANGE.

MONDAY, 28th May.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	2/1½
Bank Bills, on demand	2/1½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	2/1½
ON LONDON.—	
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	2/1½
Credits at 4 months' sight	2/1½
Dollar Monetary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/2
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	267½
Credits 4 months' sight	271½
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	218
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	51½
Credits, 60 days' sight	52½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	158½
Bank, on demand	159
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	158½
Bank, on demand	159
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	71½
Private, 30 days' sight	72½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	108½
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	103½
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	10½ p.c.p.m.
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	129
ON HAI PHONG.—	
On demand	2½ p.c.p.m.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	2½ p.c.p.m.
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	61
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$9.4
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	\$49.55
SILVER, per oz.	31½

HONGKONG QUOTATIONS.

Hongkong, 28th May, 1906.

Apricot	\$22 to \$24
Borax	\$14 " \$18
Cassia	\$14 " \$19
Cloves	\$29 " \$34
Camphor	\$180 " —
Cow Bezoar	\$120 " \$148
Fennel Seed	\$6.50 " —
Galangal	\$2.50 " \$5
Grapes	\$12 " —
Kiamis	\$17 " —
Glue	\$26 " —
Olibanum	\$2 " \$18
Oil Sandalwood	\$25.0 " \$375
„ Rosa	\$50 " \$160
„ Cassia	\$150 " —
Raisins	\$9 " —
Senna Leaves	\$3 " \$5
Sandalwood	\$25 " \$30
Saltpetre	\$10 " \$10.50

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 25th May, 1906.—We have no improvement to report in the general condition of our market during the past week; business still continues very restricted, and rates, with few exceptions, no doubt owing to the further rise in sterling exchange, still incline towards weakness. The T/F rate on London closes at 2/1½, and Bar Silver at 31½ per ounce.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai, in the continued absence of buyers, have declined to \$840 sellers. London, however, is slightly higher at £90 the last rate to hand by wire. Nationals are without change at \$38.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have again been booked at \$800, and more shares can be placed. Cantons have ruled quieter, but with no shares obtainable under \$36. There is no business to report in China Traders, North Chinas, or Yangtzes which remain as last quoted.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs are somewhat firmer with small sales at \$305, and probable further small buyers at the rate. Chinas remain neglected at \$86 sellers.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have again been fixed at \$24½ at which more shares are wanted, the market closing with sellers at \$25. Indo-Chinas have declined to \$90 with sellers, locally. Shanghai quotes Tls. 64 sellers, and London is unchanged at £10. China and Manilas have been booked and have further sellers at \$22. Douglases have continued in demand at \$40 at which a further transaction has been booked. Star Ferries and Shell Transports are unchanged and without business.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have continued out of favour, and it is probable that a few small parcels could be obtained at the reduced rate of \$165. Luzons, in the absence of any apparent interest, remain at the nominal quotation of \$25.

MINING.—Beyond a few transactions in Raubs at \$2½, and probable further small buyers at the rate, we have nothing of interest to report in this section.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks are slightly lower with sales and further sellers at \$161. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have declined to \$103 sellers, without business, and Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves to Tls. 225 sellers. New Amoy Docks are still enquired for at \$17. Shanghai Dock and Engineering (late Farnham, Boyd & Co.), have been booked in the North at Tls. 114 and Tls. 115, the market closing steady at the higher rate.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have changed hands at \$11½ and more shares are procurable. Kowloon Lands and West Points are unchanged and without business. Hongkong Hotels have been booked at \$13½ and Humphreys' Estates at \$11½. Shanghai Lands are somewhat easier in the North at Tls. 118 which we follow in the absence of local business.

COTTON MILLS.—Hongkong Cottons are still procurable at \$15. Latest wires to hand from the North quote:—Ewos Tls. 73, Internationals Tls. 65, Laou Kung Mows Tls. 72, and Soy Chees Tls. 325.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Island Cements continue on offer at \$29. Business has been booked in Electrics at the reduced rate of \$15½. Ices at the improved rate of \$240. Powells at \$10½, and Watsons at \$13½, the last named closing with further buyers.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	\$200	\$100
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai..	\$125	\$840, sellers London, £90
National B. of China		
A. Shares	£5	\$38
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12s. 6d.	\$7½, buyers
China-Borneo Co.	\$12	\$6½, buyers
China Light & P. Co.	\$10	\$10½, buyers
China Provident	\$10	\$9, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 73
Hongkong	\$10	\$15, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 65
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 72
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 325
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$16
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$103, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$161, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$17, buyers
Shanghai Dock and	Tls. 100	Tls. 115
Eng Co., Ltd		
S'hai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 225
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$22, sellers
G. Island Cement	\$10	\$29, sellers
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$175, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$15, sales
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$235
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$130, sales
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$240, sales
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$10	\$29, sellers
H'kong S. Waterboat	\$10	\$94
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$360
China Fire	\$20	\$85, sellers
China Traders	\$25	nominal
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$305, sales & buy.
North China	25	Tls. 87½
Union	\$100	\$800, sales & buy.
Yangtze	\$60	\$175
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$119, sellers
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$11½, sales
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$39
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 118
West Point Building	\$50	\$53
Mining—		
Charbonnages	£cs. 250	\$400
Raubs	18 10	\$2½, sales & buy.
Philippine Co.	\$10	\$51
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$165
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$25
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila	\$25	\$22, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$40, sales & buy.
H., Canton & M.	\$15	\$25, sellers
Indo-China S.N. Co.	\$10	\$90
Shell Transport Co.	21	\$27½, sellers
Star Ferry	\$10	\$32, buyers
Do. New	\$5	\$22, buyers
Shanghai & H. Dyeing	\$57	\$50
South China M. Post.	\$25	\$20, sellers
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$6
Stores & Dispensaries.		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$32
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$10½, sellers
Watkins	\$10	\$5, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$13½, sales & buy.
United Asbestos	\$4	\$9
Do. Founders	\$10	\$160

VERNNO & SMYTH, Brokers

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending the 18th May, 1906, states:—A fair business has been done in most stocks

during the week under review, the principal feature being the rise in Perak Sugar Shares which are now quoted at Tls. 110 cash and Tls. 115 July. Farnham, Boyd & Co. Shares have come into the market and operations are being reported at Tls. 116 cash. The Langkat market is fairly strong with buyers at Tls. 245 cash, but the forward rates are a little easier. Banks.—No business reported. Hongkong quotes \$850 sellers, and the latest London quotation is £90. The T. T. rate on London is 2s. 11. Marine and Fire Insurance.—Nothing reported. Shipping.—Indo-Chinas are offering at Tls. 66 without finding buyers. Shanghai Tug & Lighter Shares. Preference shares have been done at Tls. 51 and Ordinary shares at Tls. 63, closing firm at the latter rate. Docks and Wharves.—S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co., Ltd. This stock has steadily declined during the week from Tls. 119 to Tls. 116 cash with sellers at the latter rate. The forward market is very quiet. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves. A good business has been done in this stock at Tls. 232½ cash, Tls. 225 June, Tls. 227½ July and Tls. 235 September, closing with buyers at the latter rate. Sugars.—Perak Sugars have been in strong demand during the week beginning at Tls. 95 cash and Tls. 100 July, and closing with Tls. 100 cash and Tls. 115 July. Mining.—A large business has been done in Kaipings at Tls. 15 for bearer scrip, and shares are still wanted at this quotation. Lands.—A few shares have changed hands at Tls. 119 cash. Industrial.—A fair business has been done in Ewos at Tls. 72 cash, buyers preferring to pay the cash rate rather than to pay the somewhat high forward rates demanded. The market is firm at Tls. 72½ cash. Laou Kung Mows. These have been dealt in at Tls. 73 June. Maatschappij, &c., in Langkats. Business has been reported at Tls. 242½, 245 cash, Tls. 247½, 247 June and Tls. 249 July, closing with buyers for the near deliveries. Shanghai Waterworks £10 paid have been sold at Tls. 280 and we understand a few more shares are still on offer at this rate. Stores and Hotels.—Astor House Hotels have changed hands at \$31½ for June, and shares are on offer at this rate for cash. Weeks & Co. have been dealt in at \$21 cum. div. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai Electric Asbestos Co. Shares have changed hands at \$24 and 23½, and there are still shares on offer. Horse Bazaars are firm at Tls. 55. Telephones are again quoted at Tls. 64. Loans and Debentures.—Shanghai Land 6 per cent. Debentures at Tls. 96. Business has been done in Perak Sugar Debentures 7 per cent at Tls. 97½, and in Astor House 8 per cent Debentures at Tls. 104.

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 18th May.—Freights close weak, with only a limited demand for tonnage. From Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents nominal; to one port Philippines, 28 cents nominal; to Java and Japan, no inquiry. From Bangkok to Hongkong, the Nippon Yusen Kaisha have started a new line with two Norwegian time-chartered steamers *Childar* and *Prometheus*. From Iloilo to Ningpo and Shanghai, two small carriers have been closed at 35 cents; to Hongkong, 19 cents last rate paid. From Hongkong to Hongkong, \$1.25 nominal; to Swatow, \$1.50 per ton. From Newchwang to Canton, 20 cents per picul last. South Japan coal port to Hongkong, \$1.40 to \$1.80 per ton according to size. Time charters.—The Norwegian steamer *Standard* has been taken up by the Hamburg Amerika Linie, particulars as below. The following are the settlements:—

Falk—Norwegian steamer, 448 tons, Karatsu to Hongkong, \$1.40 per ton.
Skuld—Norwegian steamer, 913 tons, Karatsu to Hongkong, \$1.40 per ton.
Hilary—German steamer, 1,276 tons, Hongkong to Chinkiang, \$2.00 per ton.
Strathmore—British steamer, 2,496 tons, Pulo Laut to Hongkong, \$2.50 per ton.
Kweilin—British steamer, 1,073 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 20 cents per picul.
Kashing—British steamer, 1,143 tons, Fanrang Bay and Touron to Hongkong, \$6.120 lump sum.
Sullberg—German steamer, 783 tons, Iloilo to Ningpo and Shanghai, 35 cents per picul.
Nord—Norwegian steamer, 730 tons, Iloilo to Shanghai, 35 cents per picul.
Peik—Norwegian steamer, Iloilo to Hongkong, 18 cents per picul.
Falk—Norwegian steamer, 1,380 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.
Derwent—British steamer, 1,309 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.
Nanshan—British steamer, 1,299 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 16 cents per picul.
Laertes—British steamer, 1,514 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 16 cents per picul.
Standard—Norwegian steamer, 908 tons, monthly, 4/11 months, at \$5,500 per month.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

May—

ARRIVALS.

18, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Hoihow.
 18, Johanne, German str., from Haiphong.
 18, Kaifong, British str., from Iloilo.
 18, Kamsen, German str., from Bangkok.
 18, Solva, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
 18, Tean, British str., from Manila.
 18, Tremont, American str., from Seattle.
 18, Wuhu, British str., from Wuhu.
 18, Yangtze, British str., from Tacoma.
 19, Amara, British str., from Chinkiang.
 19, Amser, British str., from Kobe.
 19, Cairo, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
 19, Calchas, British str., from Shanghai.
 19, Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 19, Frithjof, Norwegian str., from Wuhu.
 19, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
 19, Progress, German str., from Newchwang.
 19, Prominent, Norw. str., from Bangkok.
 19, Quarta, German str., from Saigon.
 19, Shaoching, British str., from Shanghai.
 20, Anglo-Canadian, British str., from Cardiff.
 20, Flintshire, British str., from Shanghai.
 20, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
 20, Hakata Maru, Japanese str., from Kobe.
 20, Ithaka, German str., from Swatow.
 20, Kweichow, British str., from Tientsin.
 20, Nanshan, British str., from Saigon.
 20, Nithsdale, British str., from Penarth.
 20, Petchaburi, German str., from Bangkok.
 20, Strathmore, British str., from Moji.
 21, Bona, British str., from Bombay.
 21, Germania, German str., from Bangkok.
 21, Halvard, Norwegian str., from Wuhu.
 21, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
 21, Kwongsang, British str., from Shanghai.
 21, Moyune, British str., from Shanghai.
 21, Namsang, British str., from Calcutta.
 21, Norden, Norwegian str., from Moji.
 21, Petrarch, German str., from Saigon.
 21, Ramsay, British str., from Shanghai.
 21, Twickenham, British str., from K'notsu.
 21, Wongkoi, German str., from Bangkok.
 22, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
 22, Eps. of China, Brit. str., from Vancouver.
 22, Heimdal, Norw. str., from Haiphong.
 22, Idmeneus, British str., from Liverpool.
 22, Kaga Maru, Japanese str., from Shanghai.
 22, Nippon, Austrian str., from Trieste.
 22, Prinz Heinrich, Ger. str., from Yokohama.
 22, Prometheus, Norwegian str., from Moji.
 22, Protector, Danish str., from Singapore.
 22, Rubi, British str., from Manila.
 22, Tjimahi, Dutch str., from Macassar.
 22, Yangmoo, Korean str., from Kuchinotsu.
 22, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
 22, Zweena, British str., from Samarang.
 23, Ceylon, British str., from Yokohama.
 23, Chowtai, German str., from Bangkok.
 23, Telemachus, British str., from Saigon.
 23, Tholma, Norwegian str., from Hongay.
 24, Arroyo, British str., from Moji.
 24, Changchow, British str., from Straits.
 24, Daigi Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
 24, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
 24, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
 24, Hangeang, British str., from Shanghai.
 24, Hongmoh, British str., from Singapore.
 24, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 24, Lydia, German str., from Wuhu.
 24, Marie, German str., from Bangkok.
 24, Pakhoi, British str., from Chinkiang.
 24, Preussen, British str., from Bremen.
 24, Tientsin, British str., from Kobe.
 24, Tjillwong, Dutch str., from Amoy.
 24, Yochow, British str., from Shanghai.
 25, Ohibli, British str., from Wuhu.
 25, Fausang, British str., from Wuhu.
 25, Simongan, Dutch str., from Singapore.
 25, Taming, British str., from Manila.
 26, Apenrade, German str., from Pakhoi.
 26, Devawongse, German str., from Bangkok.
 26, Jason, Norwegian str., from Wuhu.
 26, Kish, British str., from London.
 26, Knivsberg, German str., from Haiphong.
 26, Kohsichang, German str., from Bangkok.
 26, Mongolia, Amr. str., from San Francisco.
 26, Shochu Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
 26, Simongan, Dutch str., from Singapore.
 26, Vanadis, Norwegian str., from Moji.
 26, Willehad, German str., from Kobe.
 27, Arcadia, German str., from Shanghai.
 27, Cheongching, British str., from Tientsin.
 27, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
 27, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.

May—

DEPARTURES.

18, Atlantic, American str., for Saigon.
 18, Benlmond, British str., for Nagasaki.
 18, Fri, Norwegian str., for Kobe.
 18, Hinsang, British str., for Canton.
 18, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
 18, Loosok, German str., for Bangkok.
 18, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 18, Pronto, Norwegian str., for Canton.
 18, Sabine Rickmers, British str., for Chefoo.
 18, Siberia, Amr. str., for San Francisco.
 18, Yawata Maru, Jap. str., for Australia.
 19, Aelia, German str., for Shanghai.
 19, Amara, British str., for Canton.
 19, Chunsang, British str., for Samarang.
 19, Delhi, British str., for Europe.
 19, Fulham, British str., for Batavia.
 19, Hongwan I., British str., for Amoy.
 19, Kashing, British str., for Tourane.
 19, Loyal, German str., for Bangkok.
 19, Shahjehan, British str., for Saigon.
 19, Unda, Norwegian str., for Chefoo.
 19, Wuhu, British str., for Canton.
 19, Zibro, British str., for Manila.
 20, Ad. de Beaumont, Fr. str., for Haiphong.
 20, Bourbon, French str., for Saigon.
 20, Calchas, British str., for Liverpool.
 20, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., for Tamsui.
 20, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
 20, Haiphong, French dredger, for Haiphong.
 20, Holstein, German str., for Hongay.
 20, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Haiphong.
 20, Mausang, British str., for Sandakan.
 20, Progress, German str., for Canton.
 20, Renomme, French str., for Haiphong.
 20, Yangtze, British str., for London.
 21, Johanne, German str., for Deli.
 21, Taikosan Maru, Jap. str., for Kuchinotsu.
 22, Amser, British str., for Calcutta.
 22, C. Apcar, British str., for Calcutta.
 22, Flintshire, British str., for Saigon.
 22, Java, Austrian str., for Moji.
 22, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 22, Kwongsang, British str., for Canton.
 22, Solva, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
 22, Tean, British str., for Manila.
 23, Childar, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
 23, Chipshing, British str., for Tientsin.
 23, Haiching, British str., for Coast Ports.
 23, Hakata Maru, Japanese str., for Bombay.
 23, Halvard, Norwegian str., for Canton.
 23, Ithaka, German str., for Hongay.
 23, Moyune, British str., for Liverpool.
 23, Petchaburi, German str., for Bangkok.
 23, Prinz Heinrich, German str., for Europe.
 23, Pronto, Norwegian str., for Chefoo.
 23, Ramsay, British str., for Singapore.
 23, Shansi, British str., for Shanghai.
 23, Standard, Norw. str., for Vladivostok.
 23, Sullberg, German str., for Iloilo.
 23, Taishan, British str., for Shanghai.
 23, Tartar, British str., for Vancouver.
 24, Arabia, German str., for Portland.
 24, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Haiphong.
 24, Ceylon, British str., for London.
 24, Heimdal, Norwegian str., for Haiphong.
 24, Idmeneus, British str., for Shanghai.
 24, Wingsang, British str., for Shanghai.
 25, America Maru, Jap. str., for S. Francisco.
 25, Banca, British str., for Moji.
 25, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
 25, Hanoi, French str., for Hoihow.
 25, Hue, French str., for Kwangchow.
 25, Preussen, German str., for Shanghai.
 25, Quarta, German str., for Kobe.
 25, Samsen, German str., for Swatow.
 26, Chiyuan, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 26, Kaifong, British str., for Amoy.
 26, Kinkiang, British str., for Shanghai.
 26, Kweichow, British str., for Tientsin.
 26, Kwongsang, British str., for Shanghai.
 26, Nippon, Austrian str., for Shanghai.
 26, Prominent, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
 26, Rajah, German str., for Bangkok.
 26, Rubi, British str., for Manila.
 26, Shaoching, British str., for Shanghai.
 26, Strathmore, British str., for Polo Laut.
 26, Tinhow, British str., for Saigon.
 26, Yangmoo, Korean str., for Kuchinotsu.
 26, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
 26, Zweena, British str., for Amoy.
 27, Hinh-Thuan, French str., for Saigon.
 27, Cheongchow, British str., for Amoy.
 27, Daigi Maru, Japanese str., for Tamsui.

27, Fooksang, British str., for Calcutta.
 27, Hallan, French str., for Hoihow.
 27, Haitao, British str., for Coast Ports.
 27, Nanshan, British str., for Swatow.
 27, Taiwan, British str., for Bangkok.
 27, Tientsin, British str., for Bombay.
 27, Tremont, American str., for Tacoma.
 27, Wongkoi, German str., for Amoy.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per *Empress of China*, from Vancouver.
 Capt. W. S. Scott, Messrs. C. N. Ferrier, C. D. Carey and R. T. Brayn; from Yokohama, Messrs. Gillilan, H. F. Carmichael, and Mrs. E. V. Brook Miller, Mr. H. T. Richardson; from Kobe, Mr. R. J. Tobin; from Nagasaki, Mr. D. G. Gunnell; from Shanghai, Mr. W. Douglas Graham, Mr. and Mrs. C. Farrow, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Strater and child, Mr. J. Gennell, Capt. H. Leonard.

Per *Prinz Heinrich*, for Hongkong from Yokohama, Mr. J. B. Varilla; from Kobe, Mr. P. E. Heinmann; from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. F. Gensan, Dr. and Mrs. Gomez, Mrs. Roerden, Mrs. Th. F. Greene, Mrs. Rosina Schwarz, Miss Baker, Miss Lenia, Messrs. E. Silbermann, Hunter, D. R. Laws, Hassenburg, Passche, Bockelmann, Brackmann and servant, Plaisant, R. C. Bany and servant, and J. N. Inouye; from Nagasaki, Mr. E. A. Fowler.

Per *Preussen*, for Hongkong from Southampton, Mr. Fr. D. Kinny, Mrs. A. Bond, Capt. S. P. Blain; from Genoa, Miss M. Dietrich, Dr. K. Runge, Messrs. L. Thiel, L. Kramer, A. Tabricius, W. Hildebrandt, W. Pockels; from Colombo, Capt. J. D. O'ly, Mr. J. Wagner; from Penang, Mrs. Ram-ay; from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Potts, Dr. M. Kober, Messrs. S. Percheffer, W. M. Greenbaum, Hayashida.

DEPARTED.

Per *Delhi*, from Hongkong for Singapore, Miss Kuyek; for Bombay, Mr. Francis Joseph; for Gibraltar, Mr. C. J. Allen; for Brindisi, Mr. J. J. Manuel; for London, Mr. Wm. H. Josey, Miss B. de Pleige, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Sweet, Miss C. L. Anderson, Mrs. and Miss Leney, Messrs. W. B. Dickson, R. C. Rountree, Mrs. N. W. Rountree, Rev. J. Sadler, Messrs. Robert Corbett, E. E. Ennew and H. W. Higginson.

Per *Prinz Heinrich*, for Hamburg, &c., Miss Allen, Messrs. P. D. Attalides, Baring, J. C. Basuto, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. de Boer, Messrs. P. Brandt, Brause, Mr. and Mrs. Brown, Miss Buyers, Mrs. and Miss Byrne, Messrs. G. Carlsen, Carpi, Miss Cumberland, Mr. M. Cunn, Mrs. K. J. Dalton and child, Mrs. Darby, Messrs. Derrick, A. Diercking, Mr. and Mrs. J. Dienske, Mr. Earle, Miss Ehrhardt, Miss Evans, Mr. and Mrs. Fischer and children, Mr. H. Fracken, Mrs. Gatsenides, Mr. Gatsenides, Jr., Lieut. K. Goloviznine, Capt. Grassi, Mr. M. Gruenberg, Mr. and Mrs. L. Haesloop, Miss A. Haesloop, Lieut. E. N. Hardinge, Capt. Hargreaves, A. Hauf, Helderling, Dr. Carl Horak, Mrs. G. A. Huender, Mr. Henry Ing, Mr. and Mrs. Jensen, Mr. and Mrs. G. M. Jones, Gen. Major I. L. Jones, Misses Jones (2), Messrs. Ge. Jungius, Mr. C. Kauffmann, Mrs. Kirby, Messrs. Koehler, G. Koenig, Mr. and Mrs. Kollecker and children, Mrs. and Miss Kool, Mr. and Mrs. Krasselt, Mr. P. Kunze, Mrs. R. Kuwad and son, Capt. H. Larsen, Messrs. E. Lay, J. Levasier, Mrs. and Miss Lewis and child, Mrs. J. A. Maclean and children, Mr. and Mrs. Mahlke and child, Messrs. de Man, W. Mannhardt, Marmoli, J. Marshall, Meyer, C. E. Miller, Miss M. Moore, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Nicholson, Miss Nicol, Messrs. Paolini, Plate, R. Pockel, Mr. and Mrs. von Pustau and child, Messrs. Joha. Randall, N. Redcliffe, Mr. and Mrs. Retalaff and child, Miss MacPherson, Messrs. G. Rietmann, M. C. Robie, Rohde, Mrs. Ross, Capt. W. Russow, Mr. and Mrs. Schmidt, Messrs. F. Seegelman, E. Seid, Mrs. Spol and child, Capt. Stupin, Mr. K. Sugura, Dr. C. Sinclair, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Taylor, Mrs. P. F. Varawa and child, Messrs. F. Weiss, R. Wirth, Ed. Wolf and A. Zerkel.

Printed and published by BARNARD AUGUSTUS HALL for the Concerned, at 101, Des Voeux Road Central, City of Victoria, Hongkong.
 London Office 121, Fleet Street, E.C.